



NOW A
HIT
ANIME
SERIES!

Dance in the Vampire Bund

NOZOMU TAMAKI

VOLUME 7

Tamaki Nozomu Presents Dance In The Vampire Band 7

ダンス イン ザ ヴァンパイアバンド

7

環 望

*Der Mensch ist gegen sich selbst,
gegen Auskundschaftung und Belagerung durch sich
selber sehr gut verteidigt,
er vermag gewöhnlich nicht mehr von sich
als seine Außenwerke wahrzunehmen.
Die eigentliche Festung ist ihm unzugänglich,
selbst unsichtbar es sei denn, daß Freunde
und Feinde die Verräther machen und ihn selber auf geheimem Weg hineinführen.*

Mankind is a species which surrounds its innermost self with high, strong walls. Should he ever attempt to seek out and overcome this barrier himself, he is repulsed almost immediately. Thus it is impossible for him to see aught but those towering walls which surround him. The castle hidden within lies not only unapproachable, but all but invisible.

However, should a friend —or perhaps an enemy— play the role of traitor and lead him through secret passageways to the castle beyond, then the story may be different.

Nietzsche, Menschliches Allzumenschliche

Der Mensch ist gegen sich selbst
 gegen Auskundschaftung und
 Belagerung durch sich selber sehr gut
 verteidigt, er vermag gewöhnlich nicht
 mehr von sich als einen Auskundschaft
 wahrzunehmen. Die eigentliche
 Festung ist ihm unzugänglich, selbst
 unsichtbar ist es ihm denn, daß
 Freunde und Feinde die
 Verräter machen und ihn
 selber auf geheimem Weg
 hineininführen.

Der Mensch ist gegen sich
 selbst, gegen
 Auskundschaftung und
 Belagerung durch sich selber
 sehr gut verteidigt, er vermag
 gewöhnlich nicht mehr von
 sich als seine Außenwerk
 wahrzunehmen. Die
 eigentliche Festung ist ihm
 unzugänglich, selbst
 unsichtbar es sei denn, daß
 Freunde und Feinde die
 Verräter machen und ihn
 selber auf geheimem Weg
 hineininführen.

Der Mensch ist gegen sich
 selbst, gegen
 Auskundschaftung und
 Belagerung durch sich selber
 sehr gut verteidigt, er vermag
 gewöhnlich nicht mehr von
 sich als seine Außenwerk
 wahrzunehmen. Die eigentliche
 Festung ist ihm
 unzugänglich, selbst
 unsichtbar es sei denn, daß
 Freunde und Feinde die
 Verräter machen und ihn
 selber auf geheimem Weg
 hineininführen.

Der Mensch ist gegen
 sich selbst, gegen
 Auskundschaftung
 und Belagerung durch
 sich selber sehr gut
 verteidigt, er vermag
 gewöhnlich nicht
 mehr von sich als
 seine Außenwerk
 wahrzunehmen. Die
 eigentliche Festung ist
 ihm unzugänglich,
 selbst unsichtbar es sei
 denn, daß Freunde
 und Feinde die
 Verräter machen und
 ihn selber auf
 geheimem Weg
 hineininführen.

Der Mensch ist gegen sich selbst
 gegen Auskundschaftung und
 Belagerung durch sich selber sehr
 gut verteidigt, er vermag gewöhnlich

Dance In The Vampire Bund 7

Contents

Chapter 38: Demon Seed

3

Chapter 39: Crest of the Wolf

27

Chapter 40: Hour of the Wolf

57

Chapter 41: An Afternoon with Wolves

97

Chapter 42: Elegy for a Wolf

121

Chapter 43: Wolf, Never Cry

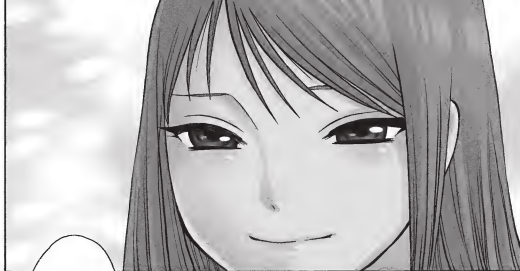
153

Appendix: Dances with Wolves

195

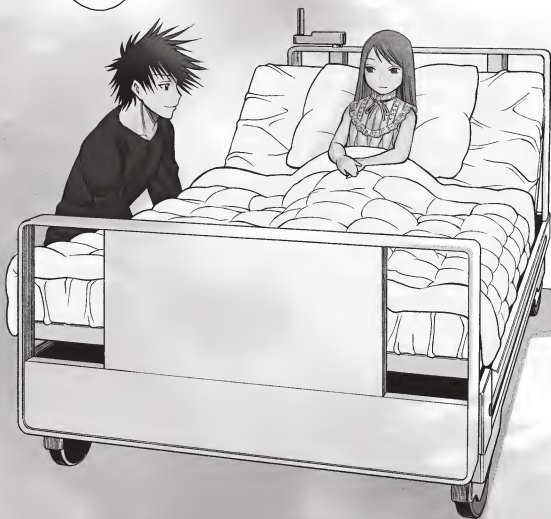
Chapter 38: Demon Seed

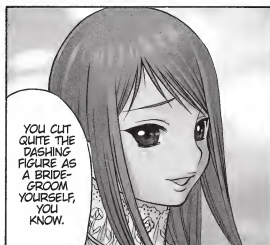




AH...

SO
THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
DREAMED.





YOU CUT
QUITE THE
DASHING
FIGURE AS
A BRIDE-
GROOM
YOURSELF,
YOU
KNOW.



WISH I
COULD'VE
SEEN IT.

BET YOU
LOOKED
REALLY
GOOD, ALL
DECKED
OUT AS A
BRIDE...



THAT
WAS A
DREAM. IT
WOULDN'T
LOOK
GOOD
IN REAL
LIFE!

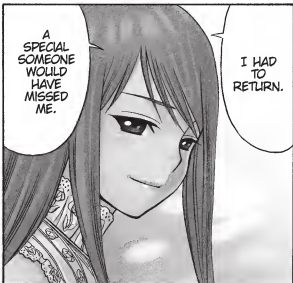
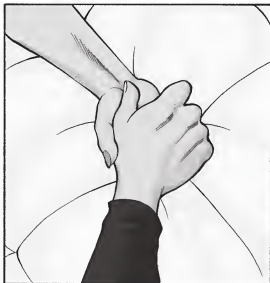
REALLY?
BUT YOU
LOOKED
SO HAND-
SOME!

ME? HAIR
SLICKED
BACK AND
PARTED
ON THE
SIDE?

UGH.
I CAN'T
SEE IT.
I MEAN,
SERI-
OUSLY.

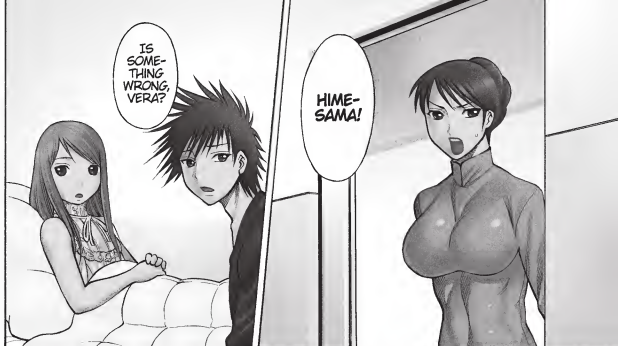


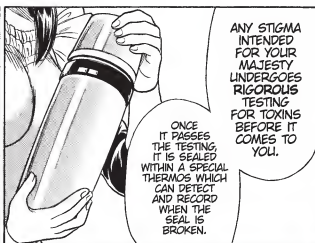
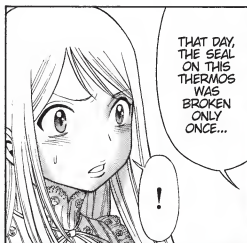
ARE YOU
GLAD
YOU
CAME
BACK?



A
SPECIAL
SOMEONE
WOULD
HAVE
MISSED
ME.

I HAD
TO
RETURN.







DO THEY HAVE PROOF ?!

ANYTHING THAT COULD PIN IT ON HER?!



SOMEONE CAME AND GOT ME.

WAIT. THEN THAT MEANS SHE WAS BROUGHT TO THE HOSPITAL THAT NIGHT...

SO SHE COULD BE RIGHT WHERE THEY COULD ARREST HER.



IT IS, OBVIOUSLY, A VERY FAR-FETCHED CONCLUSION.

HOWEVER, ONCE THE NANOMACHINES WITHIN YOUR MAJESTY WERE DISABLED, THEY SELF-DESTRUCTED AND DISSOLVED. THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION INSISTS SOMETHING SIMILAR MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO THE NANOMACHINES WITHIN THE THERMOS.

NO TRACES OF THE NANO-MACHINES WERE FOUND WITHIN THE THERMOS.

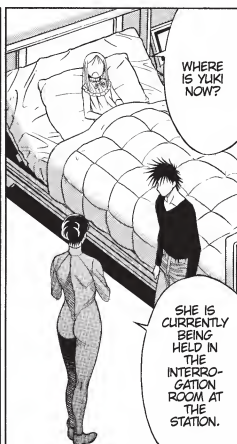


OF COURSE NOT.

I TRUST THAT NO ONE HAS YET QUESTIONED HER?

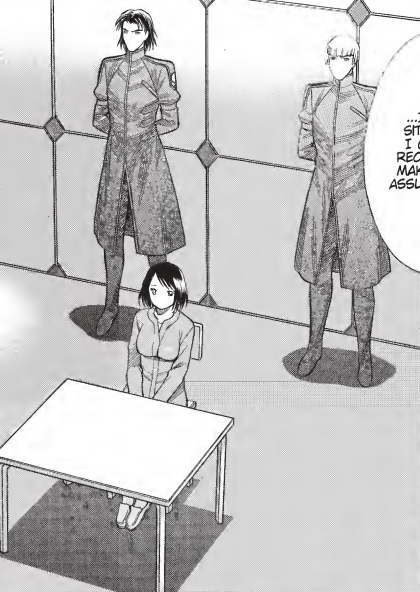
I BELIEVE SHE IS QUITE SAFE FOR THE MOMENT. HOWEVER ...

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ASSIGNING BEOWULF TO PROTECT HER, UNDER THE PRETENSE OF GUARDING AGAINST HER ESCAPE.



WHERE IS YUKI NOW?

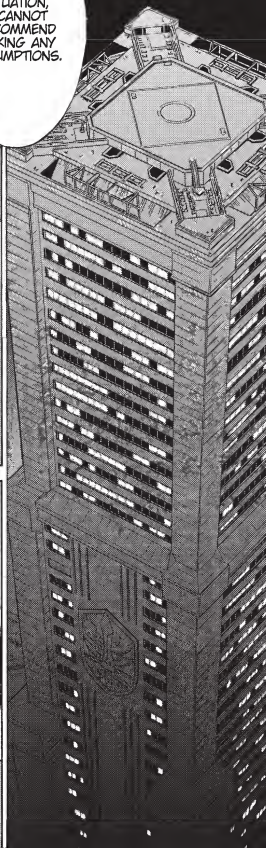
SHE IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN THE INTERROGATION ROOM AT THE STATION.



...IN THIS
SITUATION,
I CANNOT
RECOMMEND
MAKING ANY
ASSUMPTIONS.



DON'T
FRET.

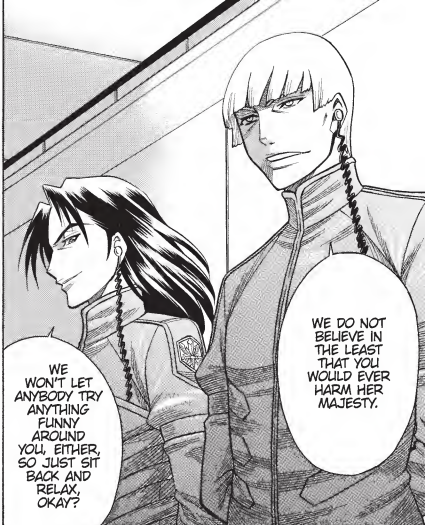




UM...
THANK
YOU.

BUT,
NEVER
MIND
THAT...

IS...
IS HIWE-
SAMA
OKAY?
SHE
DIDN'T--



WE
WON'T LET
ANYBODY TRY
ANYTHING
FUNNY
AROUND
YOU, EITHER,
SO JUST SIT
BACK AND
RELAX,
OKAY?

WE DO NOT
BELIEVE IN
THE LEAST
THAT YOU
WOULD EVER
HARM HER
MAJESTY.



WE
HAVE
A PRO-
BLEM.

THIS IS
THE
"FRONT
GATE."



HA HA!
SHE'S
OKAY!

ER, AH,
I-I'M
SORRY,
I DON'T
MEAN TO--

IT'S
JUST
--

OH,
THANK
YOU!



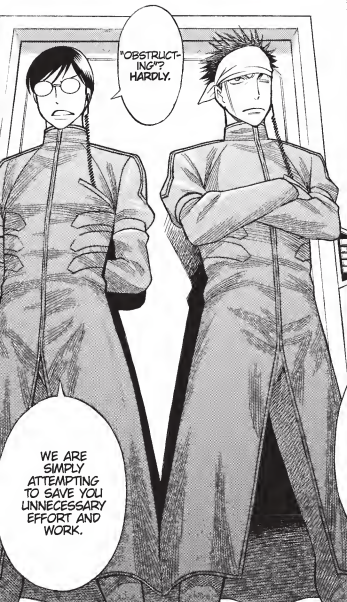
THE
DOCTORS
EXPECT
HER TO
RETURN
TO FULL
HEALTH
VERY
SOON.

NO. HER
MAJESTY
IS FINE.



OH,
THANK
GOD...

REALLY
...?



"OBSTRUCT-
ING"?
HARDLY.

WE ARE
SIMPLY
ATTEMPTING
TO SAVE YOU
UNNECESSARY
EFFORT AND
WORK.



WHAT IS THIS?
DO THE BEOWULF
HAVE SOME...
AGENDA WE
DO NOT
KNOW ABOUT?
OBSTRUCTING AN
INVESTIGATION
BY THE TEPE'S
FAMILY'S OWN
INVESTIGATIONS
DIVISION IS A
TREASONOUS
OFFENSE.



TO
SUSPECT
THE
SEEMINGLY
INNOCENT
IS OUR
DUTY.

AND I AM
SURE EVEN
YOU ARE
AWARE THAT
MORE THAN
ONE MONARCH
HAS BEEN
STABBED IN
THE BACK BY
ONE THAT THEY
HAD CALLED
"FRIEND."



YUKI-DONO
IS HER
MAJESTY'S
HONORED
SCHOOL
FRIEND...

TO
SUSPECT
HER OF
FOUL PLAY
IS THE
HEIGHT OF
ABSURDITY!

AND HER
MOST
TRUSTED
CONFIDANTE,
BAR
NONE.

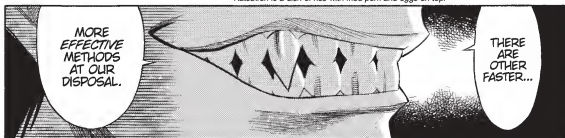


OH,
I ASSURE
YOU, WE
HAVE NO
NEED TO
BE SO...
ROUND-
ABOUT.

I MEAN,
SORRY, BUT
I JUST CAN'T
SEE A GUY
LIKE YOU FEEDIN'
HER A BOWL
OF KATSUDON*
AND BEGGIN'
HER "PRETTY-
PLEASE" TO
COME CLEAN.

JUST
HOW ARE
YOU PLANNIN'
ON INTERRO-
GATING HER,
ANYWAY ?

*Katsudon is a dish of rice with fried pork and eggs on top.



MORE
EFFECTIVE
METHODS
AT OUR
DISPOSAL.

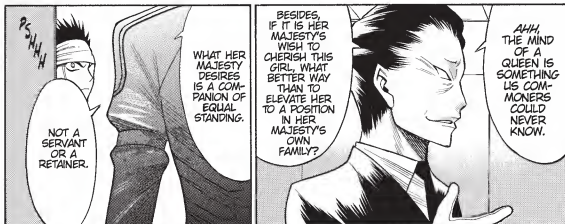
THERE
ARE
OTHER
FASTER...



HOW CAN
YOU
THINK HER
MAJESTY
WOULD EVER
FORGIVE YOU
FOR TURNING
YUKI-DONO
INTO A
VAMPIRE?!

YEAH,
THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE
SOME-
THING
YOU
BASTARDS
WOULD
DO.

WHAT,
GONNA GO
IN THERE
AND BITE HER,
THEN
COMMAND HER
TO CONFESS
TO A CRIME
SHE DIDN'T
EVEN COMMIT,
HUH?



PSHHH

NOT A
SERVANT
OR A
RETAINER.

WHAT HER
MAJESTY
DESIRES
IS A COM-
PANION OF
EQUAL
STANDING.

BESIDES,
IF IT IS HER
MAJESTY'S
WISH TO
CHERISH THIS
GIRL, WHAT
BETTER WAY
THAN TO
ELEVATE HER
TO A POSITION
IN HER
MAJESTY'S
OWN
FAMILY?

AHH,
THE MIND
OF A
QUEEN IS
SOMETHING
US COM-
MONERS
COULD
NEVER
KNOW.



YOU DOUBT OUR LOYALTY?

KINDA HARD NOT TO...

SEEING THE LITTLE SHOW YOU'RE PUTTING ON HERE.



HOW DEPLORABLE.

TO SERVE HER MAJESTY SO LONG AND SO CLOSELY AS YOU HAVE, AND YET NOT HAVE THE EYES TO RECOGNIZE HER MOST OBVIOUS DESIRE...



ACTUALLY IT'S YOU WHO'LL BE HAVING THE PROBLEM LATER.



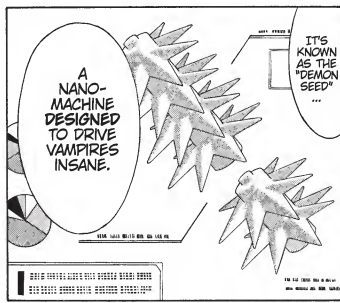
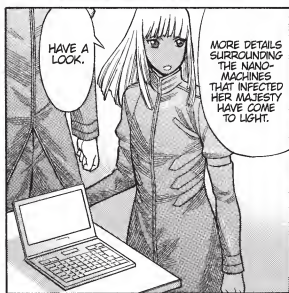
YOU MAY BE THE QUEEN'S BLADES, BUT YOU HAVE OVER-STEPPED YOUR BOUNDS, BEOWULF.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MAY VERY WELL COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU LATER.



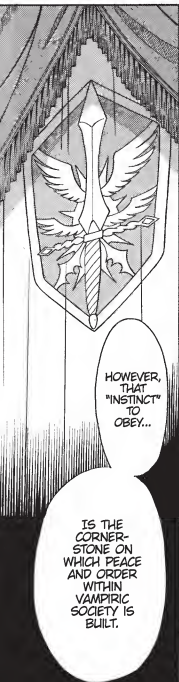
AM I WRONG?

IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY TO TOSS SOMEBODY UP ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY'RE GUILTY OR NOT.





DURING THE VAMPIRE CIVIL WARS, ONE OF THE GREATEST PROBLEMS FACED BY THE INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS OF EACH SIDE WAS HOW TO GO ABOUT CREATING A RELIABLE INSIDER.



HOWEVER, THAT "INSTINCT" TO OBEY...

IS THE CORNER-STONE ON WHICH PEACE AND ORDER WITHIN VAMPIRIC SOCIETY IS BUILT.



AND ONLY BY OUR UNIQUE "REPROGRAMMING" TECHNIQUE CAN A VAMPIRE BE COMPELLED TO SERVE A DIFFERENT MASTER.

THAT METHOD IS ONE THAT WILL NOT REMAIN CONCEALED OR PROPRIETARY FOR MUCH LONGER.

HOWEVER, IN TODAY'S WORLD OF GENETIC TESTING AND DEEP-PSYCHE ANALYSIS...



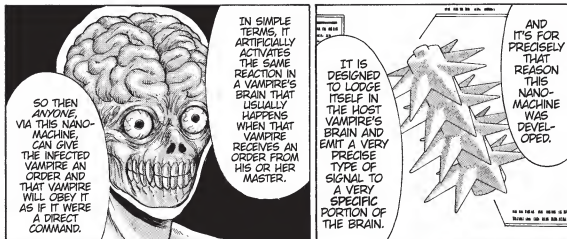
AND NOBILITY OBEY ROYALTY.

IN THE SAME FASHION, THE COMMONERS OBEY THE NOBILITY.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, VAMPIRIC SOCIETY IS RULED BY A VERY STRICT HIERARCHY. THE ONE WHO HAS HIS BLOOD DRUNK OBEYS ABSOLUTELY THE ONE WHO DRINKS HIS BLOOD.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH ONE WISHES TO DO OTHERWISE, ONCE THE COMMAND IS GIVEN, IT IS **PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE** TO DISOBEY.

THIS ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE IS ENGRAINED SO DEEPLY IN VAMPIRE GENETICS, IT CAN ALMOST BE CALLED INSTINCT.

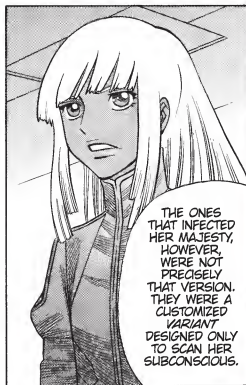


SO THEN ANYONE, VIA THIS NANO-MACHINE, CAN GIVE THE INFECTED VAMPIRE AN ORDER AND THAT VAMPIRE WILL OBEY IT AS IF IT WERE A DIRECT COMMAND.

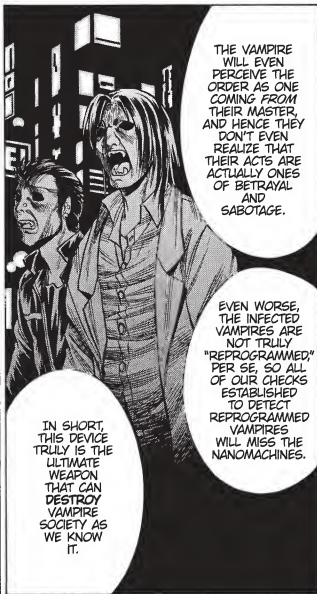
IN SIMPLE TERMS, IT ARTIFICIALLY ACTIVATES THE SAME REACTION IN A VAMPIRE'S BRAIN THAT USUALLY HAPPENS WHEN THAT VAMPIRE RECEIVES AN ORDER FROM HIS OR HER MASTER.

IT IS DESIGNED TO LODGE ITSELF IN THE HOST VAMPIRE'S BRAIN AND EMIT A VERY PRECISE TYPE OF SIGNAL TO A VERY SPECIFIC PORTION OF THE BRAIN.

AND IT'S FOR PRECISELY THAT REASON THIS NANO-MACHINE WAS DEVELOPED.



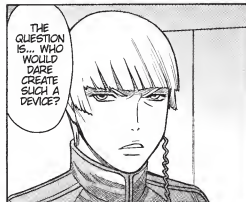
THE ONES THAT INFECTED HER MAJESTY, HOWEVER, WERE NOT PRECISELY THAT VERSION. THEY WERE A CUSTOMIZED VARIANT DESIGNED ONLY TO SCAN HER SUBCONSCIOUS.



THE VAMPIRE WILL EVEN PERCEIVE THE ORDER AS ONE COMING FROM THEIR MASTER, AND HENCE THEY DON'T EVEN REALIZE THAT THEIR ACTS ARE ACTUALLY ONES OF BETRAYAL AND SABOTAGE.

EVEN WORSE, THE INFECTED VAMPIRES ARE NOT TRULY "REPROGRAMMED," PER SE, SO ALL OF OUR CHECKS ESTABLISHED TO DETECT REPROGRAMMED VAMPIRES WILL MISS THE NANOMACHINES.

IN SHORT, THIS DEVICE TRULY IS THE ULTIMATE WEAPON THAT CAN DESTROY VAMPIRE SOCIETY AS WE KNOW IT.



THE QUESTION IS... WHO WOULD DARE CREATE SUCH A DEVICE?

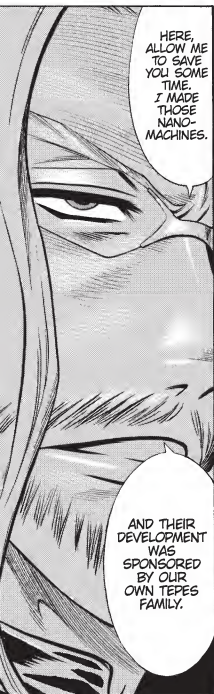


WOULD
YOU
CARE TO
EXPLAIN,
INSPEC-
TOR?



FOR THAT
ANSWER, I
MUST DEFER
TO THESE
GENTLEMEN.
THEY
WOULD KNOW FAR
BETTER
THAN I.

COR-
RECT?



HERE,
ALLOW ME
TO SAVE
YOU SOME
TIME.
I MADE
THOSE
NANO-
MACHINES.

AND THEIR
DEVELOPMENT
WAS
SPONSORED
BY OUR
OWN TEPES
FAMILY.



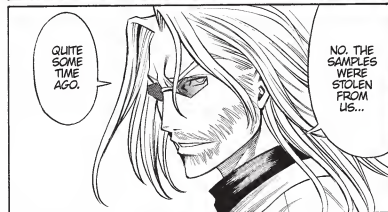
DUKE
BORGIANI.



DON'T BE
SO MEAN
TO THE
POOR MAN.
YOU KNOW
WHAT
WE'RE
LOOKING
AT OUT
THERE.

THAT'LL
BE
QUITE
ENOUGH
OF
THAT.

T.O.K





BUT I NEVER THOUGHT

PART OF THE REASON THE SENATE DISPATCHED ME HERE WAS BECAUSE OF THAT THEFT.



WE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS NANOMACHINE PROJECT FOR SOME TIME NOW, AND HAVE BEEN KEEPING A CAREFUL, QUIET EYE ON IT.

YES. ASIDE FROM COMMANDING BEOWULF, THE EARTH CLAN SENATE ALSO HOLDS THE DUTY OF KEEPING WATCH OVER THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE TEPES FAMILY AS AN ORGANIZATION.



IT IS SOMETHING I REGRET IMMENSELY.

YES. NO ONE EVER THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE USED AGAINST HER MAJESTY DIRECTLY.



THE PATH HER MAJESTY MUST WALK IS NOT A STRAIGHT, SHINING ROAD OF HONOR, PUP!

IT IS DARK, TWISTED AND FRAUGHT WITH DANGER. YOUR CONCEPTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE WILL ONLY CARRY HER MAJESTY SO FAR!

NOW SHUT YOUR YAP AND KEEP YOUR DOGS DOING THE ONLY THING THAT THEY HAVE ANY REAL TALENT FOR-- BASHING THINGS IN BATTLE!



YOU LET IT GET STOLEN! AND NOW THIS ATTEMPT TO SUPPRESS THE WHOLE THING!

NOT ONLY DID YOU DEVELOP A DANGEROUS WEAPON ...

THIS IS HARDLY A SITUATION WHERE SIMPLE REGRET WILL SUFFICE, YOUR GRACE!!

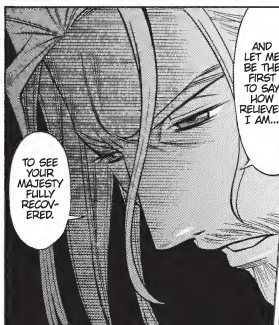
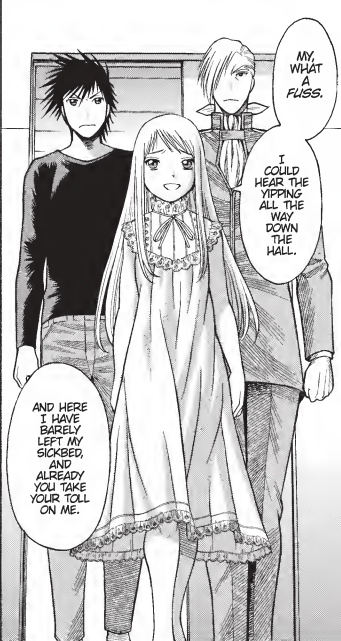
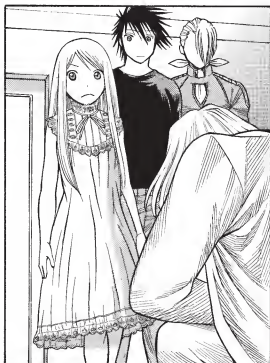
YOU "REGRET" IT?



PARDON MY BLUNTNESS, YOUR GRACE...

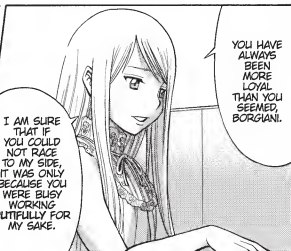
BUT I FAIL TO SEE HOW ANY OF THIS WAS IN HER MAJESTY'S BEST INTERESTS!!

WORST OF ALL, HER MAJESTY'S VERY LIFE WAS PUT IN DANGER!

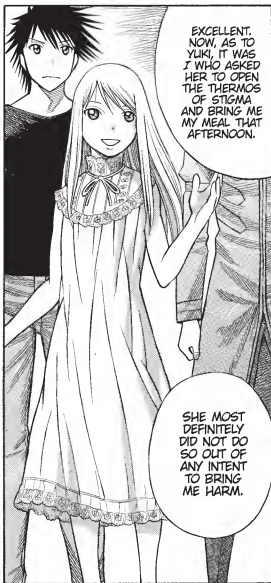




I AM SURE
THAT IF
YOU COULD
NOT RACE
TO MY SIDE,
IT WAS ONLY
BECAUSE YOU
WERE BUSY
WORKING
DUTIFULLY FOR
MY SAKE.



YOU HAVE
ALWAYS
BEEN
MORE
LOYAL
THAN YOU
SEEMED,
BORGIANI.



EXCELLENT.
NOW, AS TO
YUKI, IT WAS
I WHO ASKED
HER TO OPEN
THE THERMOS
OF STIGMA
AND BRING ME
MY MEAL THAT
AFTERNOON.

SHE MOST
DEFINITELY
DID NOT DO
SO OUT OF
ANY INTENT
TO BRING
ME HARM.



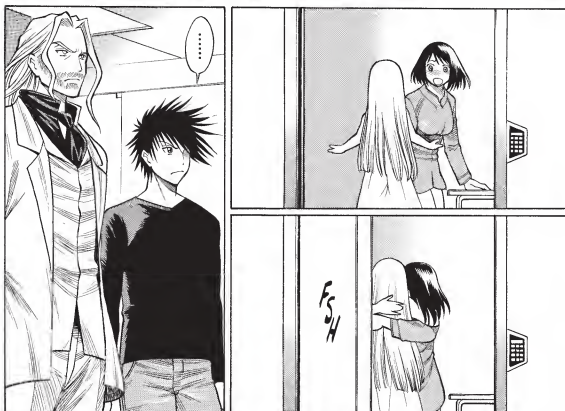
I LEAVE
THIS
CASE TO
YOU.

UNDER-
STOOD?



AS
YOU
WISH.

PLEASE
REST
ASSURED
THAT I WILL
FIND THE
TRUTH OF
THE MATTER
WITH ALL
HASTE.





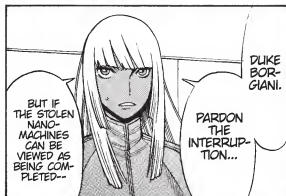
SHE
MAY
TRUST
YOU...

BUT DON'T
MAKE THE
MISTAKE OF
THINKING
I DO.



HIME-
SAN...
ALMOST
DIED.

AND YOUR
LACKEYS
WENT AND
TRIED TO
PIN THE
WHOLE
THING ON
YUKI.



DUKE
BOR-
GIANI.

BUT IF
THE STOLEN
NANO-
MACHINES
CAN BE
VIEWED AS
BEING COM-
PLETED--

PARDON
THE INTERRUP-
TION...



THEN IT
IS ONLY PRU-
DENT TO
ASSUME
THAT
THEY ARE
ALREADY IN
USE.

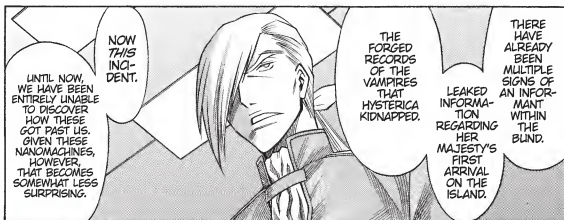
JUST LIKE
HUMANS,
ONCE
VAMPIRES
GET A NEW
"TOY," THEY
JUST CAN'T
SEEM TO
RESIST
PLAYING
WITH IT.



AS
YOU
WISH,
THEN.

BUT
REMEMBER,
BOY,
LOYALTY IS
SOMETHING
PEOPLE
HOLD IN
THEIR
HEARTS.

HOW THEY
SHOW IT
CAN DIFFER
GREATLY,
AND IT MAY
NOT BE IN
WAYS THAT
OTHERS
WOULD
UNDERSTAND.



UNTIL NOW,
WE HAVE BEEN
ENTIRELY UNABLE
TO DISCOVER
HOW THESE
GOT PAST US.
GIVEN THESE
NANOMACHINES,
HOWEVER,
THAT BECOMES
SOMEWHAT LESS
SURPRISING.

NOW
THIS
INCIDENT.

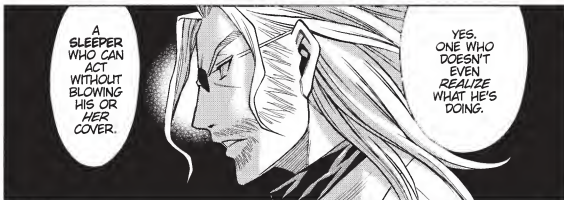
THE
FORGED
RECORDS
OF THE
VAMPIRES
THAT
HYSTERICA
KIDNAPPED.

LEAKED
INFORMA-
TION
REGARDING
HER
MAJESTY'S
FIRST
ARRIVAL
ON THE
ISLAND.

THERE
HAVE
ALREADY
BEEN
MULTIPLE
SIGNS OF
AN INFOR-
MANT
WITHIN
THE BUND.

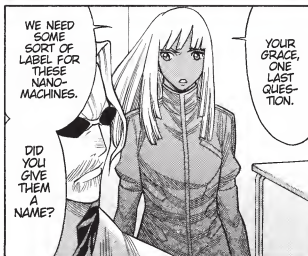


SO
THERE'S A
TRAITOR
IN THE
BUND.



A
SLEEPER
WHO CAN
ACT
WITHOUT
BLOWING
HIS OR
HER
COVER.

YES.
ONE WHO
DOESN'T
EVEN
REALIZE
WHAT HE'S
DOING.



WE NEED
SOME
SORT OF
LABEL FOR
THESE
NANO-
MACHINES.

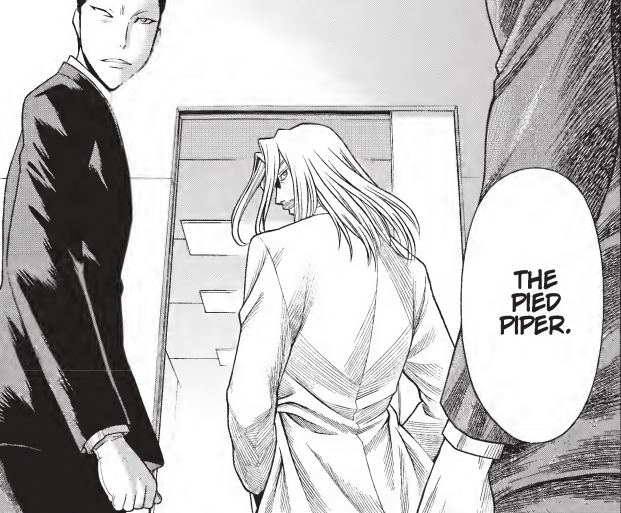
DID
YOU
GIVE
THEM
A
NAME?

YOUR
GRACE,
ONE
LAST
QUES-
TION.

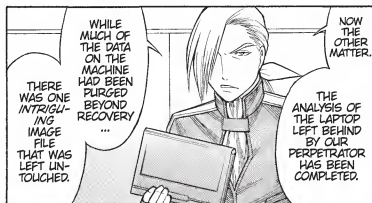


I MUST
GO AND
BEGIN
MY OWN
FIGHT.

PARDON
ME...



THE
PIED
PIPER.

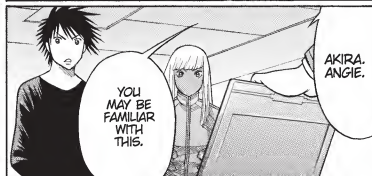


THERE WAS ONE
INTRIGU-
ING
IMAGE
FILE
THAT WAS
LEFT UN-
TOUCHED.

WHILE
MUCH OF
THE DATA
ON THE
MACHINE
HAD BEEN
PURGED
BEYOND
RECOVERY
...

NOW
THE
OTHER
MATTER.

THE
ANALYSIS
OF
THE LAPTOP
LEFT BEHIND
BY OUR
PERPETRATOR
HAS BEEN
COMPLETED.



YOU
MAY BE
FAMILIAR
WITH
THIS.

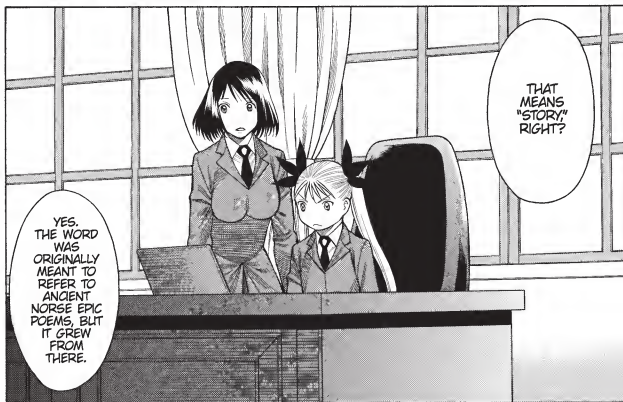
AKIRA.
ANGIE.



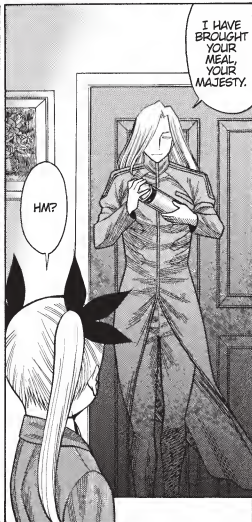
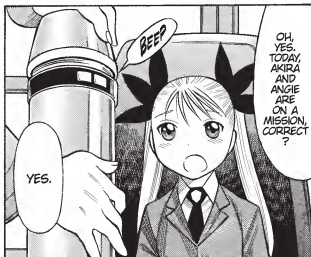
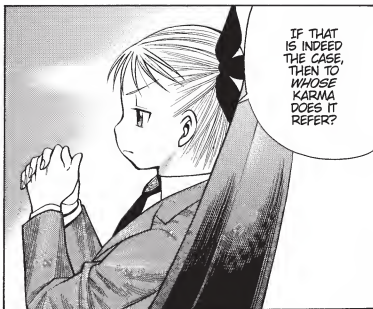


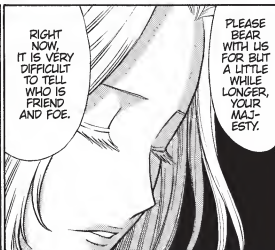
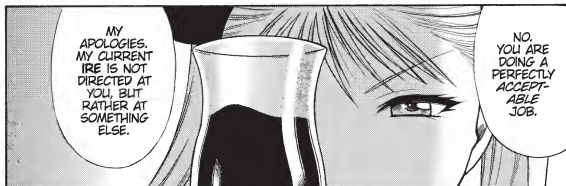
Chapter 39: Crest of the Wolf

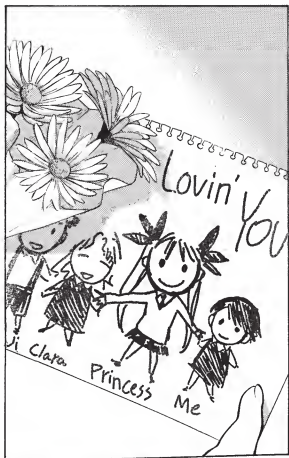


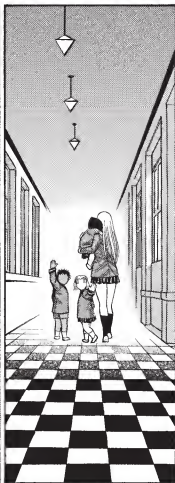
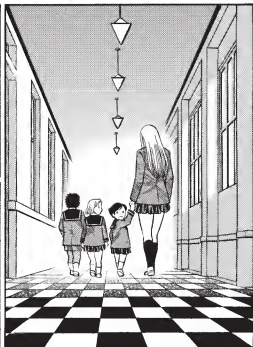
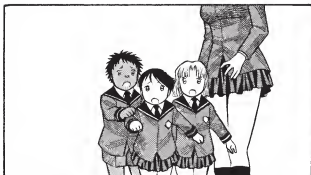






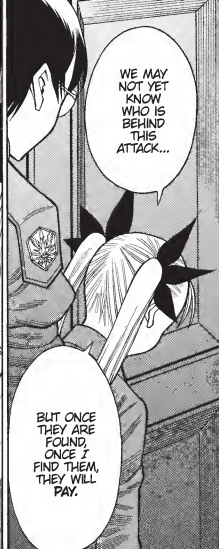






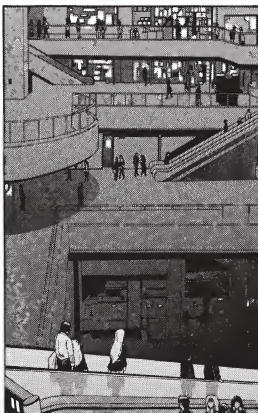
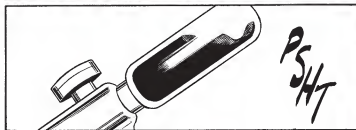
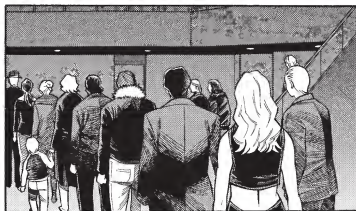


I DO NOT
APPRECIATE
BEING TORN
FROM MY
SUBJECTS, AND
I WILL MAKE
SURE THEY
REGRET THAT
DECISION,
RIGHT DOWN TO
THE MARROW
OF THEIR
BONES!!



WE MAY
NOT YET
KNOW
WHO IS
BEHIND
THIS
ATTACK...

BUT ONCE
THEY ARE
FOUND,
ONCE I
FIND THEM,
THEY WILL
PAY.





PLEASE
BE SURE TO
WEAR THIS
ARM BAND AT
ALL TIMES.
IT IS PROOF
THAT YOU
HAVE HAD
BLOOD
DRAWN.

THERE.
THANK
YOU.



DO YOU
THINK
THEY'LL
REALLY
TRY AND
COME
AFTER
US?



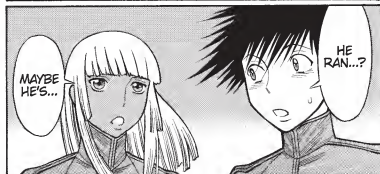
SHE
WON'T
KNOW.
I...DON'T
EVER
WANT
HER TO
KNOW.



WHEW.
THREE
DAYS
DOWN,
WHO
KNOWS
HOW
MANY TO
GO...

HEY, AKIRA?
DO YOU THINK
HER MAJESTY
WOULD GET MAD
IF SHE EVER
FOUND OUT
OUR "SPECIAL
MISSION" WAS
JUST GOING OUT
AND DRAWING
BLOOD
SAMPLES?

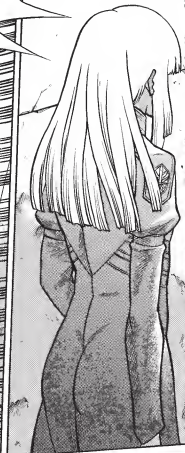
DOESN'T
MATTER.





AAGHHH!!

F!!
TMP!!



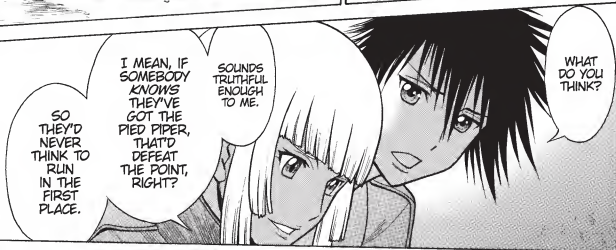
I AIN'T
GOT NO
NANO-
MACHINES
OR
WHATEVER
IN ME!

P-
PLEASE
...

LISTEN
TO ME!

NICELY
DONE.





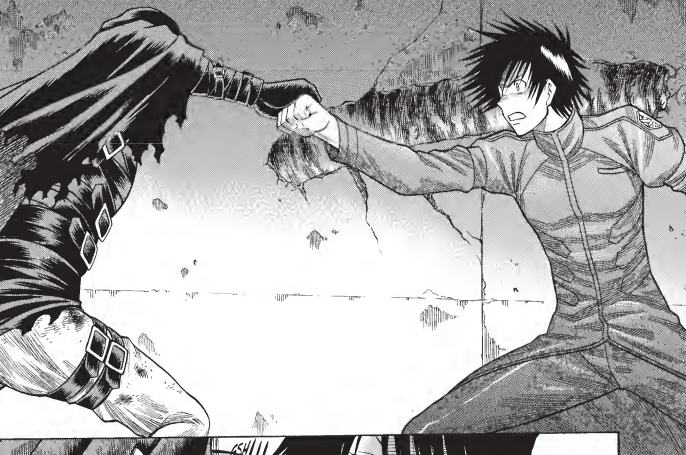




AKIRA!!



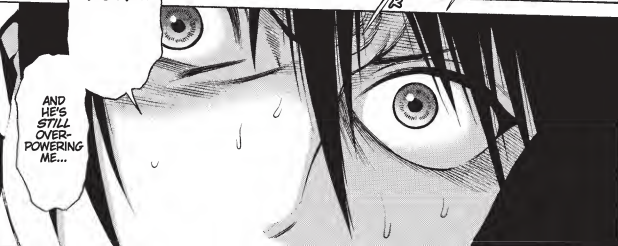




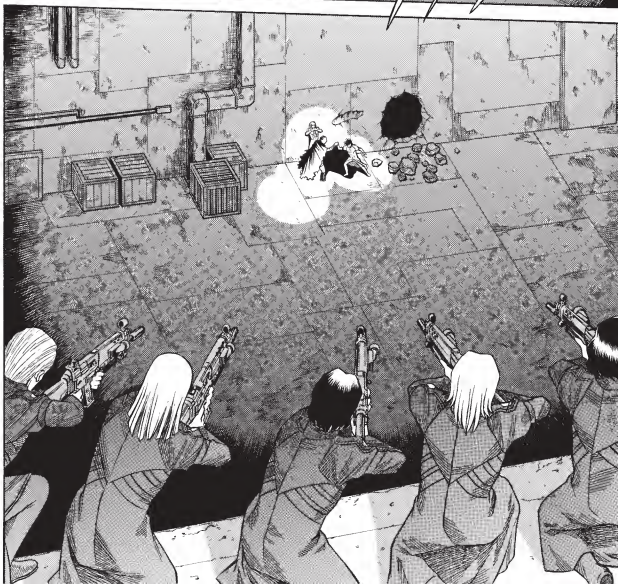
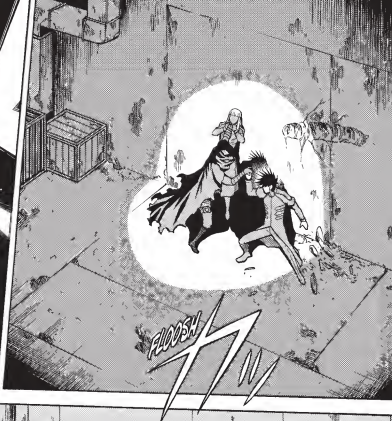
WHERE'D...
YOU GET
THIS KIND
OF
STRENGTH
?



I'M A
WERE-
WOLF...



AND
HE'S
STILL
OVER-
POWERING
ME...

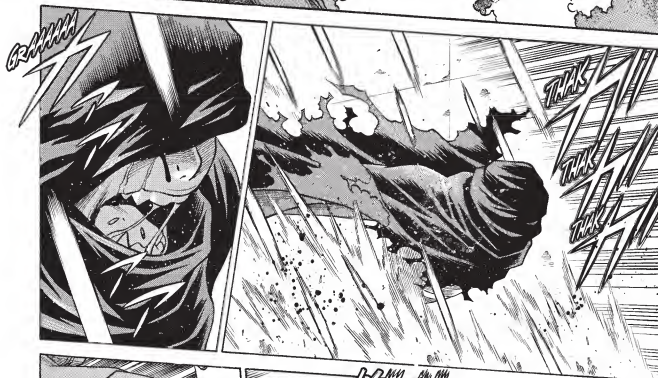


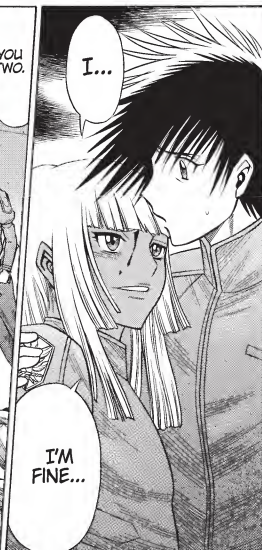
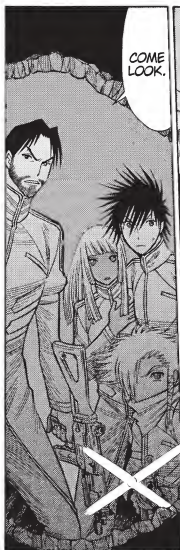
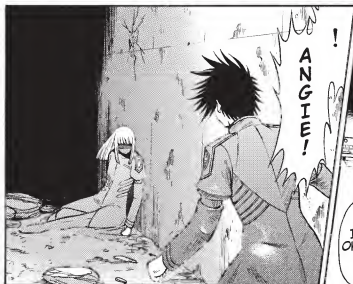


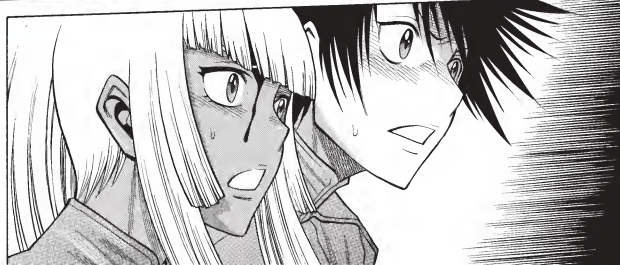
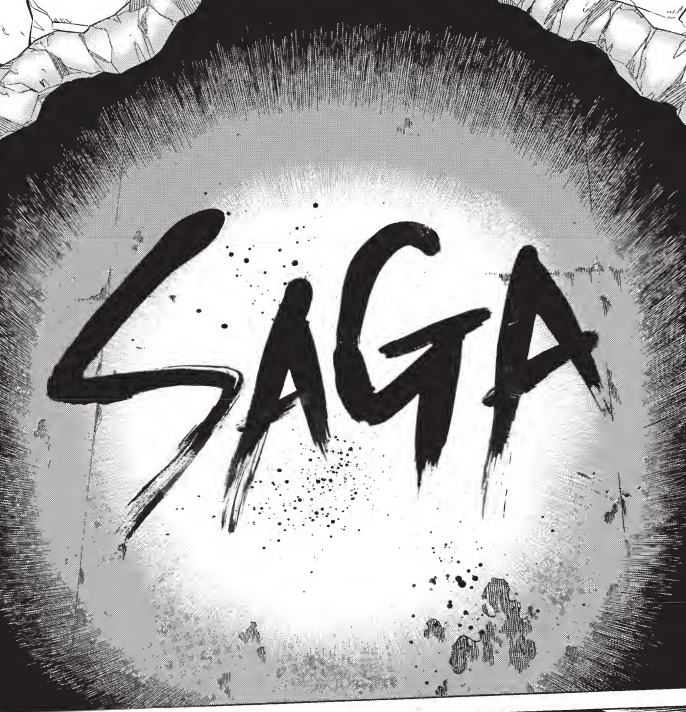
MOVE,
AND WE
WILL
SHOOT.

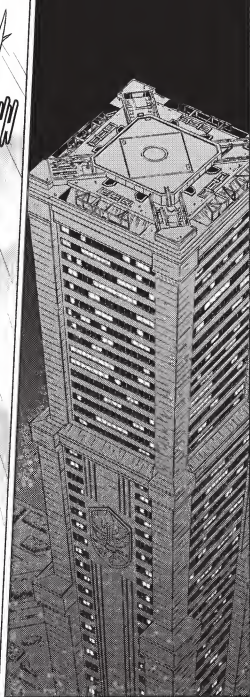
FREEZE.

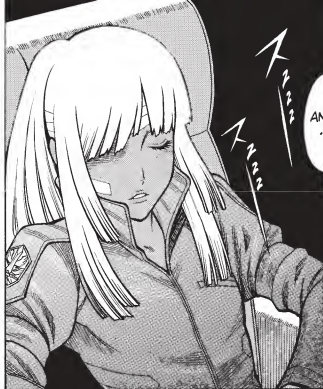










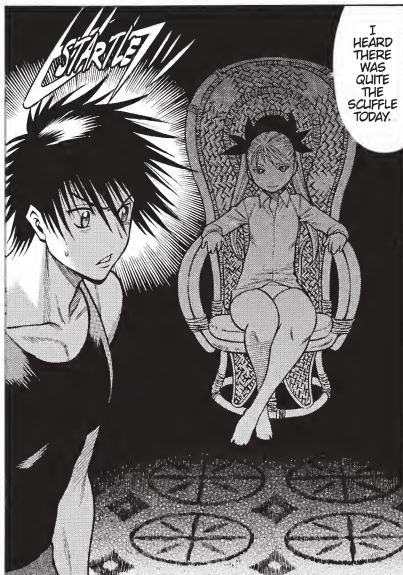


ANGIE
...?

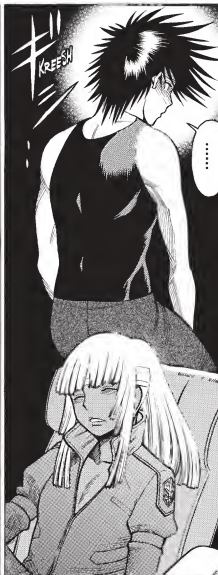


HEY,
ANGIE
...

YOU
REALLY
SHOULD
GET A
SHOWER
BEFORE
YOU HEAD
HOME...
HN?



I
HEARD
THERE
WAS
QUITE
THE
SCUFFLE
TODAY.



.....





AKIRA
...

WHAT
ARE YOU
HIDING
FROM
ME?



OH,
AND LET
US NOT
FORGET
THE WORD
"SAGA"
APPEARING
AGAIN AT
THE SCENE
OF YOUR
BATTLE.

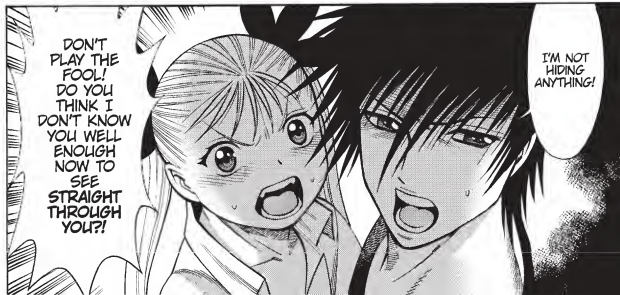
ALL
THAT IS
PURE
HAPPEN-
STANCE?
I THINK
NOT.



OH,
YOU'RE
NOT,
HIM?

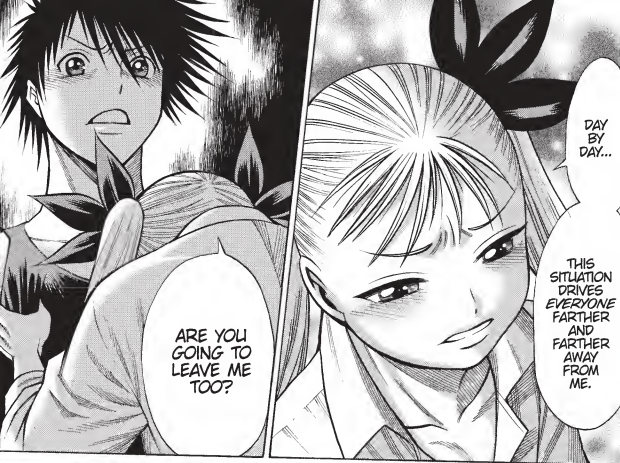
SO
TOSSING
ASIDE
YOUR
DUTY TO
GUARD
ME...

JUST SO THAT
YOU COULD DRAW
BLOOD FOR DAYS
WAS MERE WHIM?
AND GETTING
ATTACKED BY AN
ASSASSIN WHILE
YOU WERE SO
CONSPICUOUSLY
OUT IN THE
OPEN LIKE THAT
WAS SIMPLE
COINCIDENCE?



DON'T
PLAY THE
FOOL!
DO YOU
THINK I
DON'T KNOW
YOU WELL
ENOUGH
NOW TO
SEE
STRAIGHT
THROUGH
YOU?!

I'M NOT
HIDING
ANYTHING!





SO THE
IMAGE
LEFT ON
THAT
COMPUTER
...

NOBODY
KNOWS
WHERE
THAT
CAVE IS.

NOBODY
BUT THE
FOUR OF
US WHO
WERE
THERE.
AND OF
THOSE,
ONLY ANGIE
AND I ARE
STILL
ALIVE.

IT HAS
TO BE A
MESSAGE
FOR THE
TWO OF
US.

NO...

SANIN.

ANGIE.

GRA-
HAM.

AKIRA.

THOSE
FOUR
NAMES
ARE
WHERE
IT
COMES
FROM.

YEAH.
THE FOUR
OF US WHO
SHARED A
MONTH OF
HARDSHIP
AND FUN IN
THE MIDDLE
OF THE
SIBERIAN
WINTER.

AS A SIGN
OF THE
BONDS WE
HAD MADE,
OF THE
ETERNAL
FRIENDSHIPS
THAT WE'D
STARTED, WE
CARVED OUR
INITIALS INTO
THE WALL OF
THE CAVE
WE STAYED
IN.

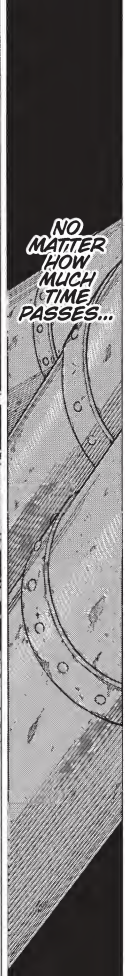
BUT
THOSE
ARE--!



NO MATTER
HOW
DESPERATELY
YOU TRY TO
COVER IT UP,
THE PAST
WILL NEVER
FORGET YOU.



NO MATTER
HOW HARD
YOU TRY TO
ERASE IT
FROM YOUR
MEMORIES...

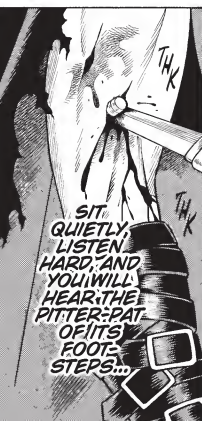


NO
MATTER
HOW
MUCH
TIME
PASSES...

I...

I WILL
NOT
FORGET.

I WILL
ALWAYS
REMEM-
BER.



SIT
QUIETLY,
LISTEN
HARD, AND
YOU WILL
HEAR THE
PITTER-PAT
OF ITS
FOOT-
STEPS...

I AWAIT
THAT
MOMENT...

WITH
JOY.

IT WILL
FOLLOW
YOU
EVERY-
WHERE
YOU GO.
AND ONE
DAY...

IT WILL
CATCH UP
TO YOU.

IT WILL LICK
ITS CHOPS
AND SINK
ITS FANGS
INTO YOUR
THROAT,
NEVER
LETTING GO.

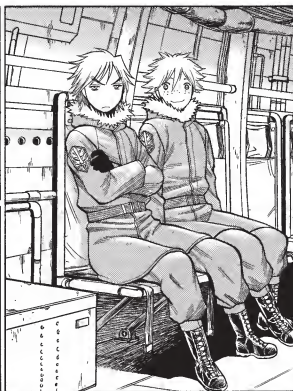
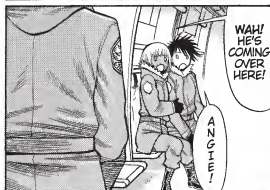
RRR!

RRR!



WE
THERE
YET...?

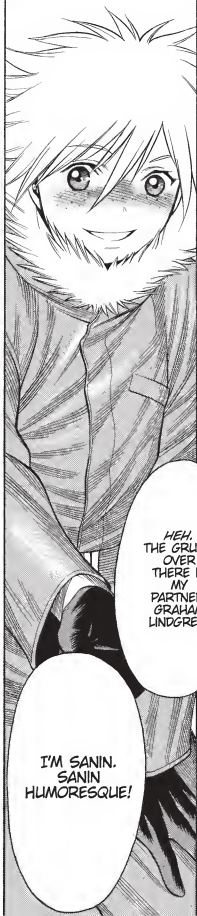




Chapter 40: Hour of the Wolf

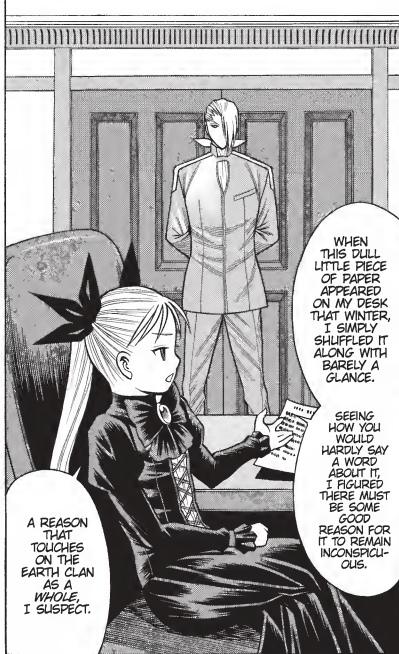


GOOD
TO
MEET
YA!



HEH.
THE GRUMP
OVER
THERE IS
MY
PARTNER,
GRAHAM
LINDGREN.

I'M SANIN.
SANIN
HUMORESQUE!



A REASON
THAT
TOUCHES
ON THE
EARTH CLAN
AS A
WHOLE,
I SUSPECT.

WHEN
THIS DULL
LITTLE PIECE
OF PAPER
APPEARED
ON MY DESK
THAT WINTER,
I SIMPLY
SHUFFLED IT
ALONG WITH
BARELY A
GLANCE.

SEEING
HOW YOU
WOULD
HARDLY SAY
A WORD
ABOUT IT,
I FIGURED
THERE MUST
BE SOME
GOOD
REASON FOR
IT TO REMAIN
INCONSPICU-
OUS.

GRAHAM
LINDGREN.
SANIN
HUMOR-
ESQUE.

BOTH
KILLED IN AN
UNSPECIFIED
ACCIDENT
DURING
THEIR RITUAL
ORDEAL
TWO YEARS
AGO.

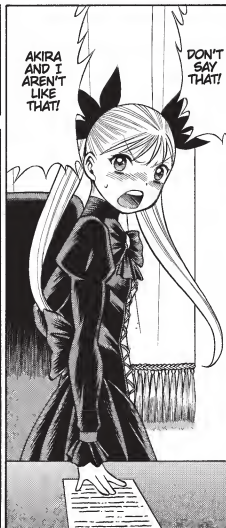
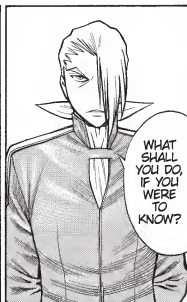
WOLFGANG,
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO AKIRA
THAT
WINTER?

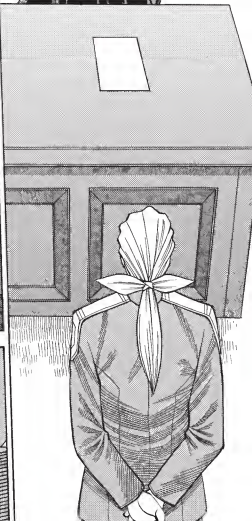
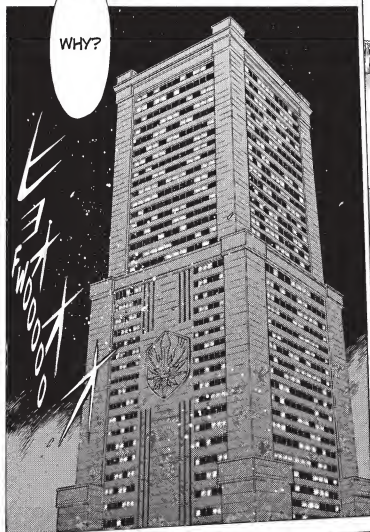
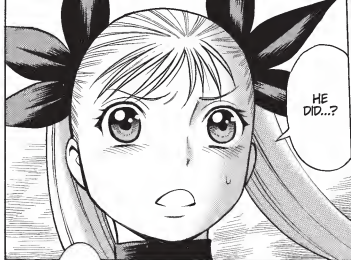
AND IF
THAT IS
THE CASE,
I CANNOT
CONTINUE
TO
OVERLOOK
IT NOW.

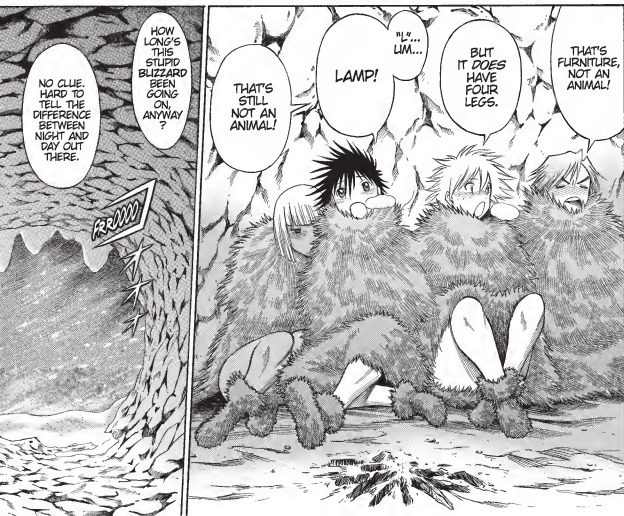
I NEED
TO
KNOW.

YOU
SEE,
AKIRA
TOLD ME
SOME-
THING
THE
OTHER
DAY.

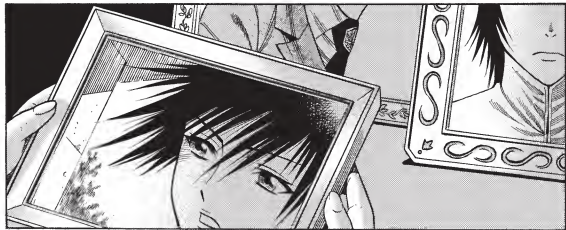
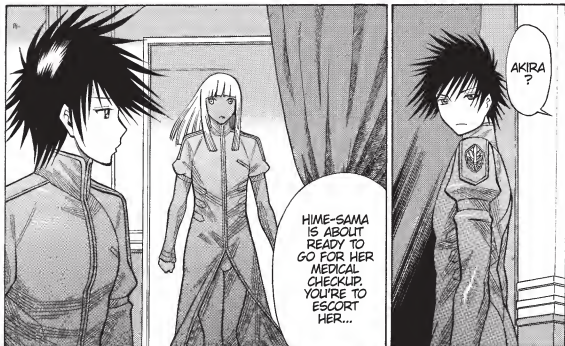
HE SAID
THAT
WHOEVER IS
RESPONSIBLE
FOR OUR
CURRENT
PREDICAMENT
ALSO HAS
INTIMATE
KNOWLEDGE
OF HIS
RITUAL
ORDEAL.

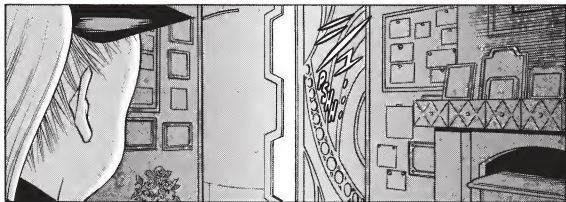
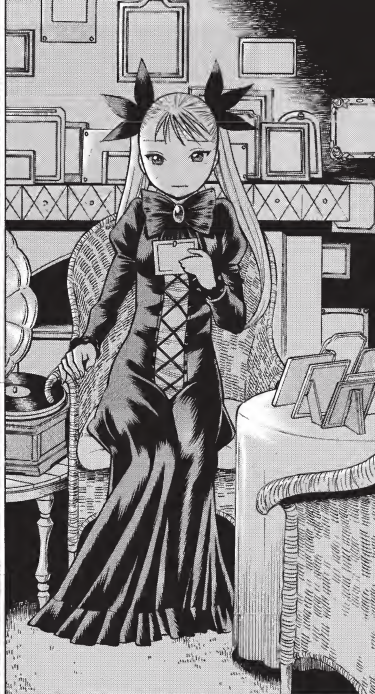




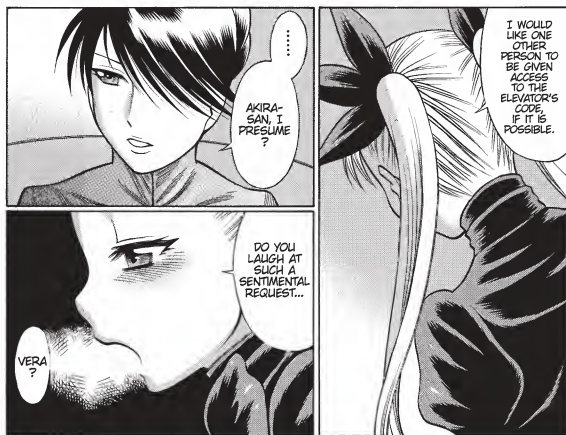
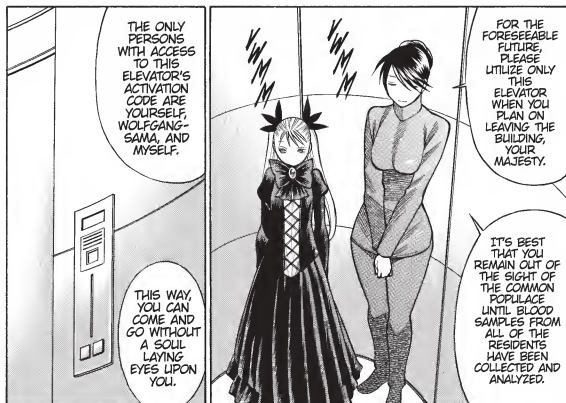


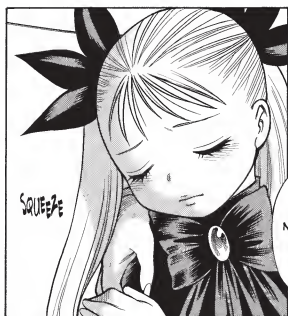












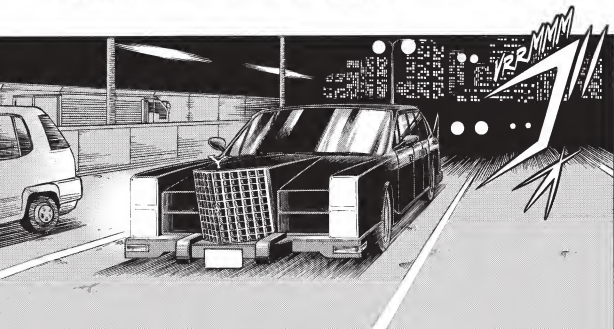
I
WOULD
NEVER DO
SUCH A
THING...



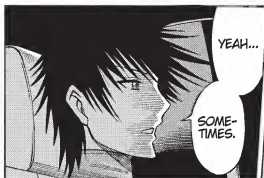
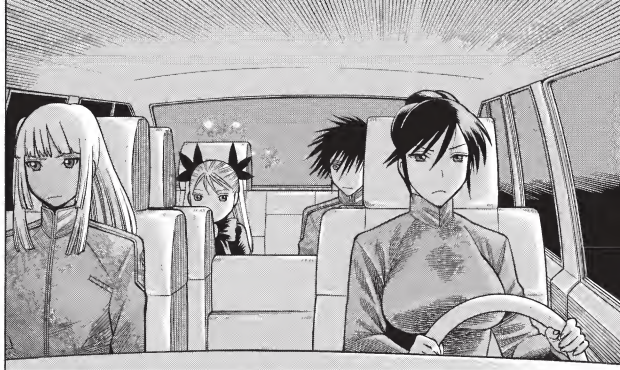
OF
COURSE
NOT,
YOUR
MAJESTY.

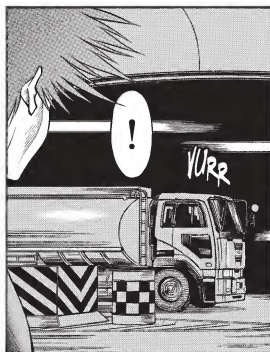


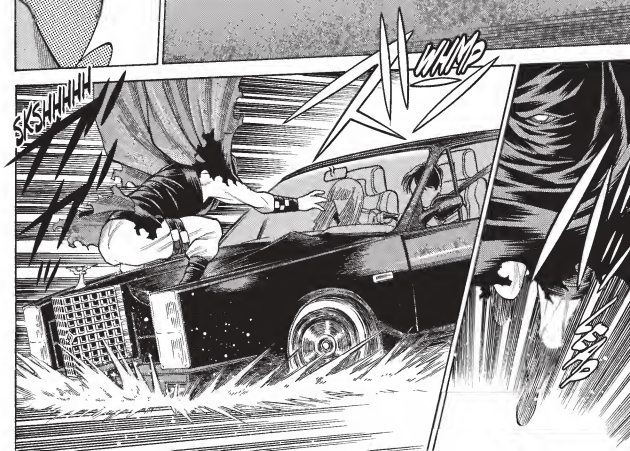
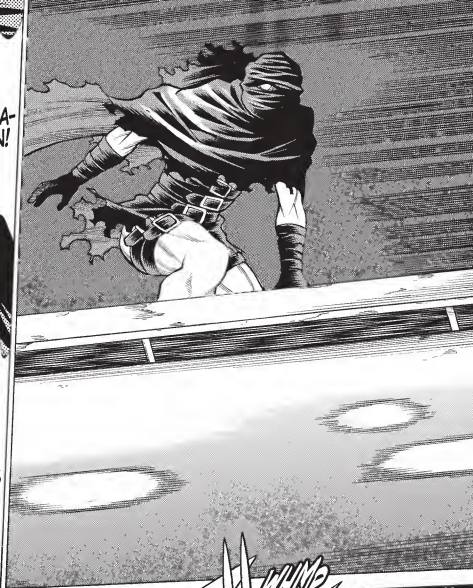
PSH



RRMMM

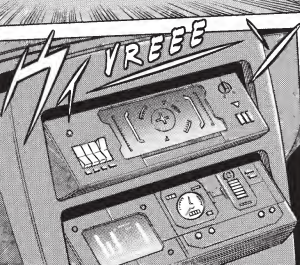
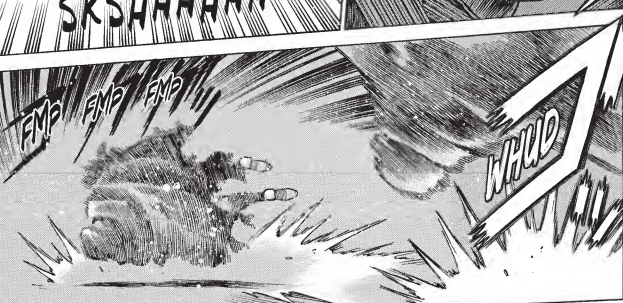


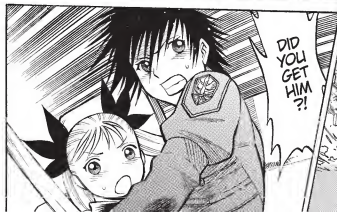
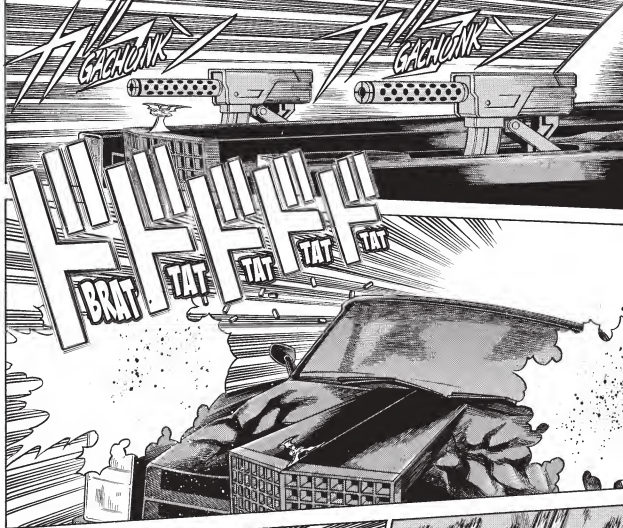


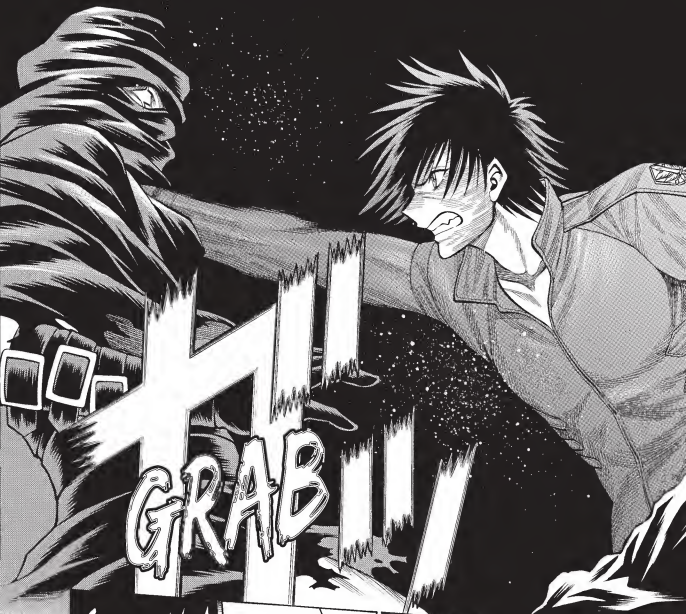




HIME-SAMA,
YOUR
SEAT-BELT
PLEASE!







THIS
TIME...



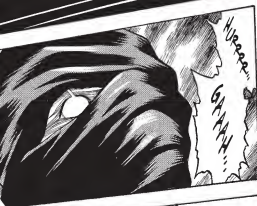
HIME-
SAMA,
TO THE
FRONT!

AKIRA!!



TAKE
CARE
OF
HIME-
SAN
FOR
ME!

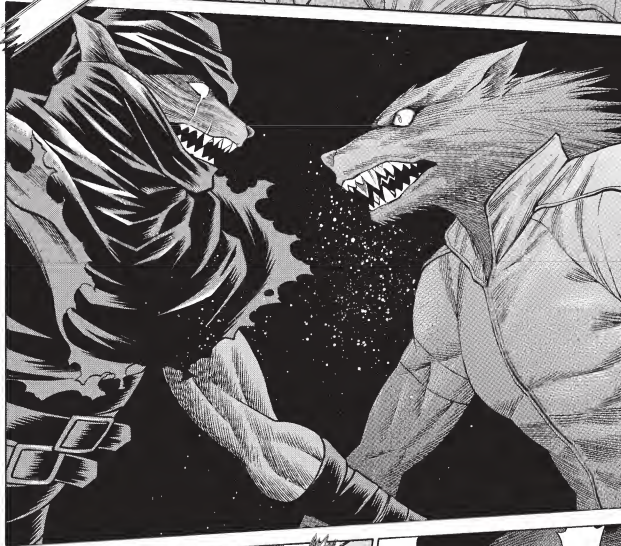
ANGIE!



THE
GLOVES
COME
OFF!!

DOOOO
OOOOO
NOOOO

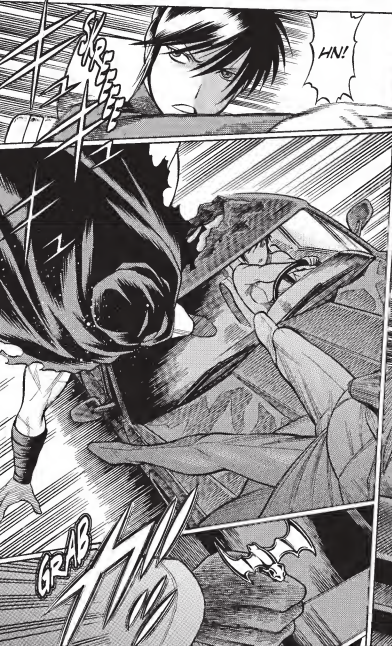
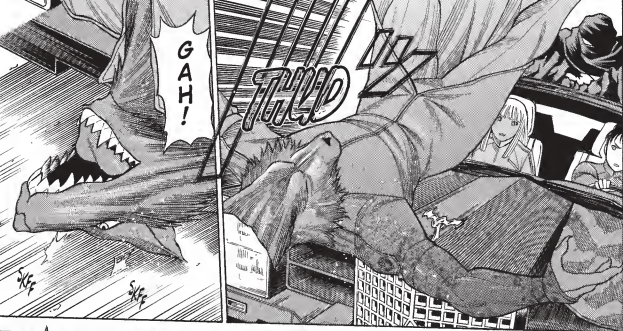
WHUNK

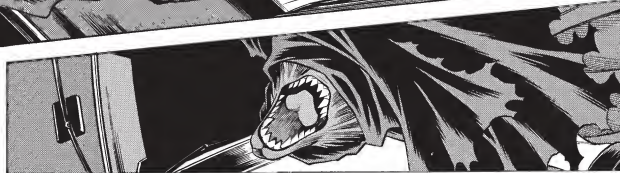


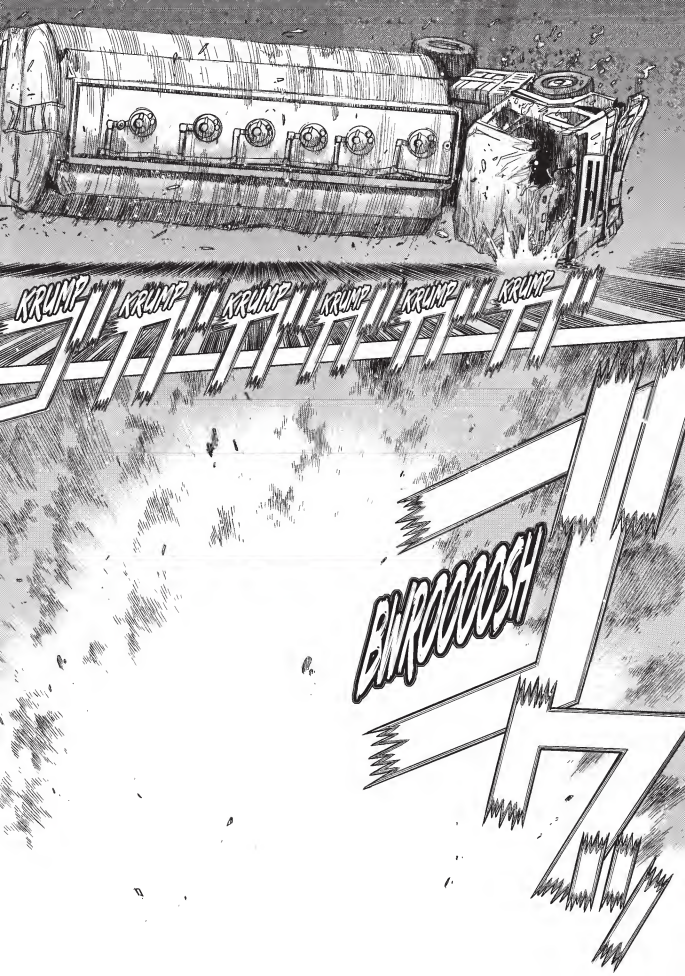
**A
WERE-
WOLF
?!!**

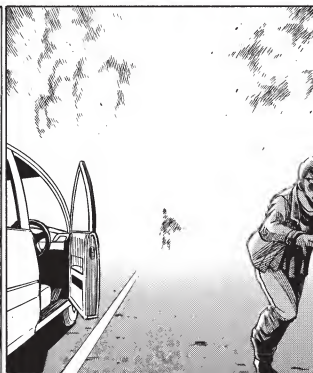
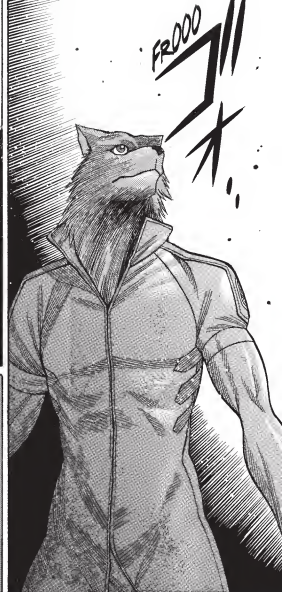
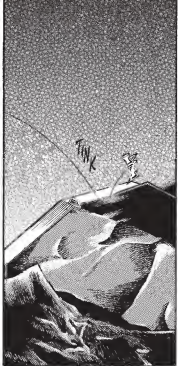
WHAT
THE--
?!

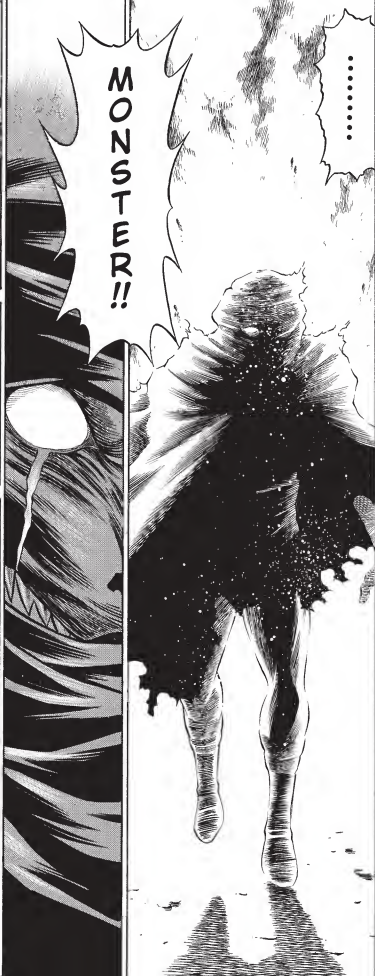
SHOVE













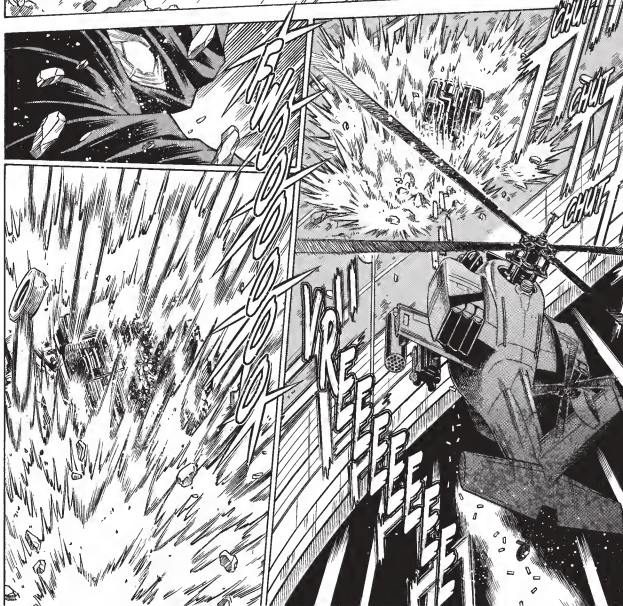
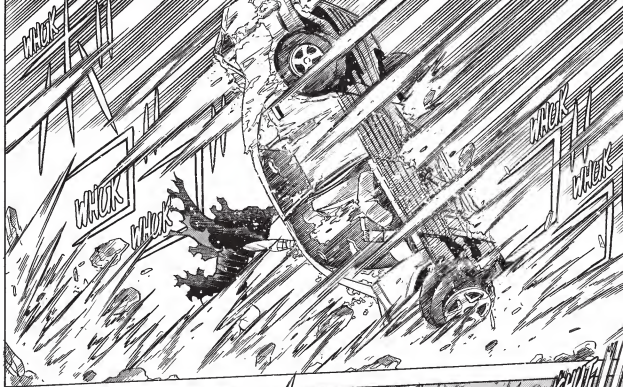
AAA...

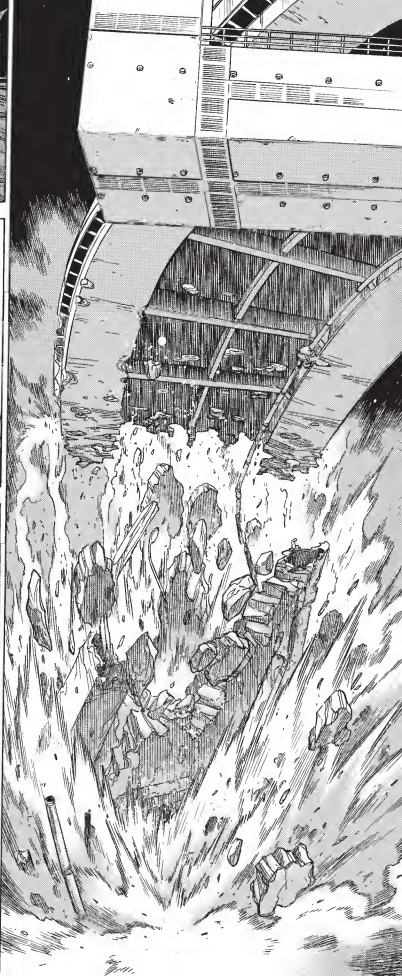
AA...
KIRA...?

AKIRA.

AAH...









HE'S A
WERE-
WOLF.

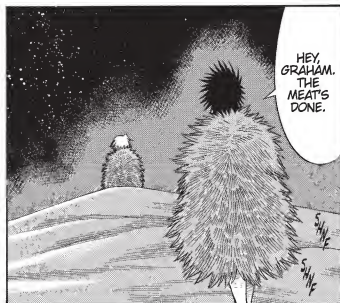
YEAH...

AND
MAYBE
EVEN...

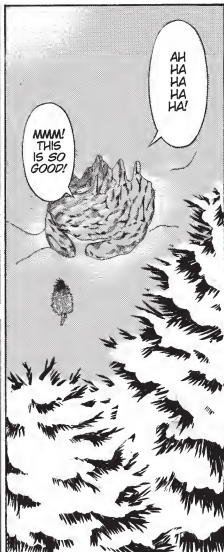


THAT
HOWL...





HEY,
GRAHAM.
THE
MEAT'S
DONE.



MMM!
THIS
IS SO
GOOD!

AH
HA
HA
HA
HA!



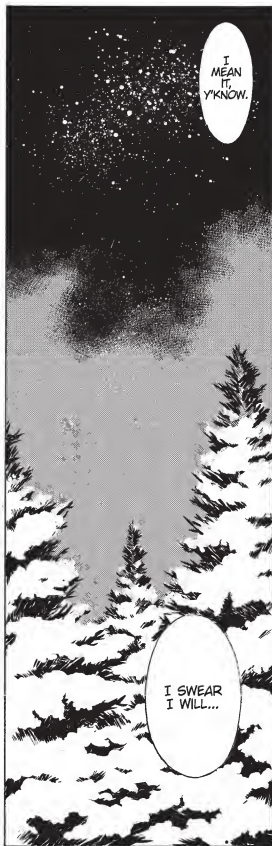
IF YOU
HADN'T
BEEN
THERE
TODAY...
I
WOULD'VE
DIED.



"FRIENDS,"
HUH.



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
WE'RE
FRIENDS,
RIGHT?



I MEAN
IT,
Y'KNOW.

I SWEAR
I WILL...



I'LL
COME AND
SAVE YOU,
EVEN IF
IT MEANS
MY LIFE.

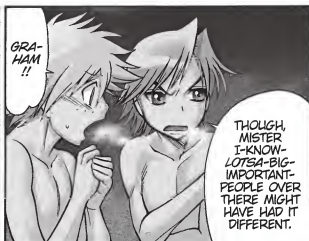
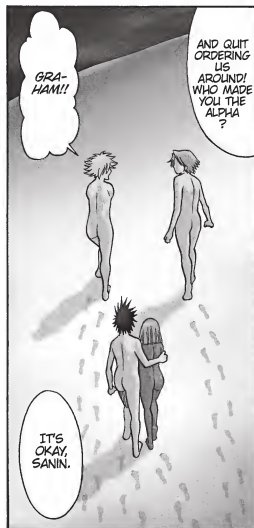
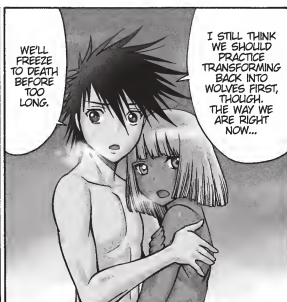
SOMEDAY,
WHEN
YOU'RE IN
TROUBLE...



LET'S
GO EAT
BEFORE
IT GETS
COLD!

C'MON,
WHAT'RE
YOU
GOIN' ON
ABOUT
ALL THAT
FOR?





Chapter 41: An Afternoon with Wolves



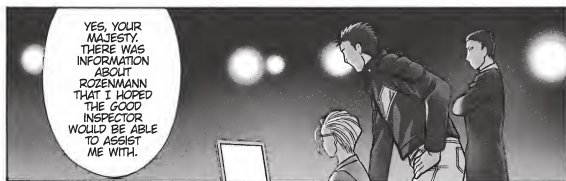


I HEARD
HAMA
WENT
OVER TO
SEE YOU
TODAY.

THIS IS
ALPHONSE.



YES.

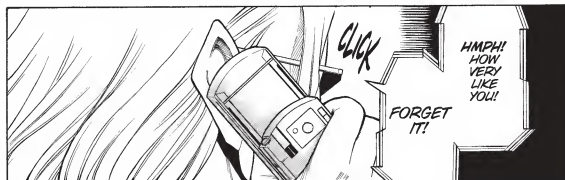


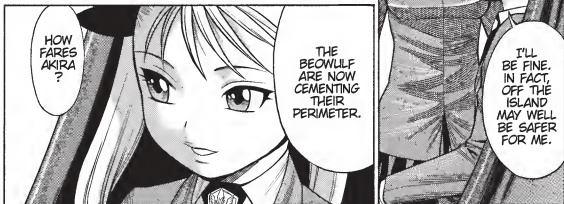
YES, YOUR
MAJESTY.
THERE WAS
INFORMATION
ABOUT
ROZENMANN
THAT I HOPED
THE GOOD
INSPECTOR
WOULD BE ABLE
TO ASSIST
ME WITH.



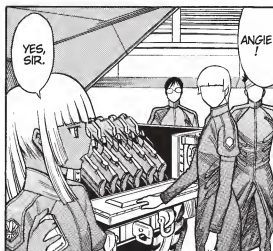
MAY I
INQUIRE
AS TO
WHY?

SEND HIM
TO ME
WHEN YOU
ARE
FINISHED.
I CAN
WAIT UNTIL
THEN.









YES, SIR.

ANGIE!

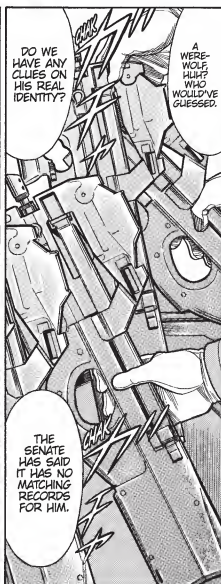
JUST LEAVE IT ALL TO ME, OKAY?

I KNOW. IT'LL BE OKAY, AKIRA.



IT WOULD SEEM SO, YES.

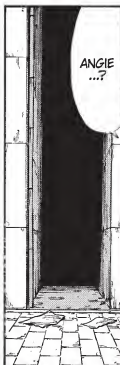
SO HE'S OUT-CLAN...



DO WE HAVE ANY CLUES ON HIS REAL IDENTITY?

A WERE-WOLF, HUH? WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED.

THE SENATE HAS SAID IT HAS NO MATCHING RECORDS FOR HIM.

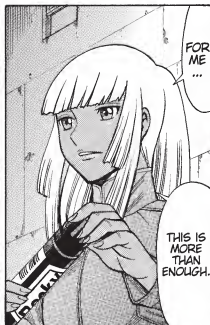
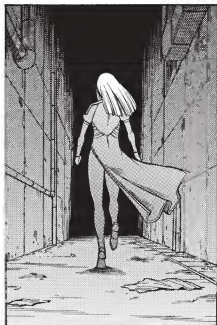


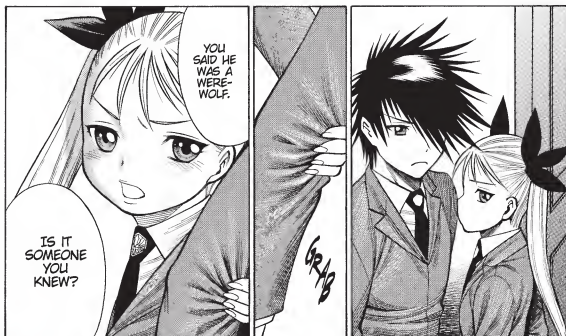
ANGIE ...?



YOU TOO, ANGIE!

WHAT-EVER THE CASE, GEAR UP.





YOUR
HEART IS
SCREAMING,
AKIRA!
IT HAS
BEEN FOR
YEARS!

I'D
HAVE
TO BE
DEAF
NOT TO
HEAR
IT.

AND
YOU
DARE
SAY...

NOT...
MY
BUSI-
NESS?

IT'S
CRYING
AND
BEGGING
FOR
HELP!

THAT
IT'S
"NONE
OF MY
BUSI-
NESS"
?!

DO YOU
HAVE
ANY
IDEA
HOW
MUCH
I...?

WHAT
AM I
TO
YOU?!

WHY
WILL
YOU NOT
TAKE MY
HAND?!
AM I
NOT
WORTHY
?!



THEN,
AS
YOUR
QUEEN,
I ASK
YOU...

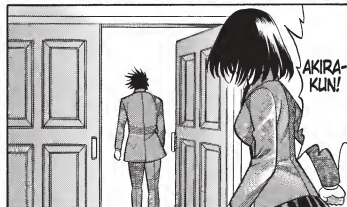
MY
QUEEN,
YOUR
MAJESTY...

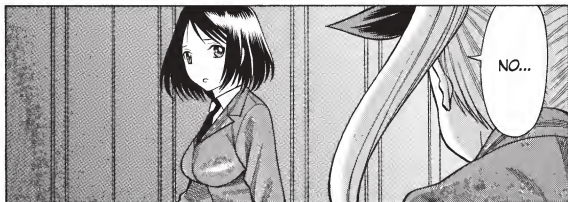


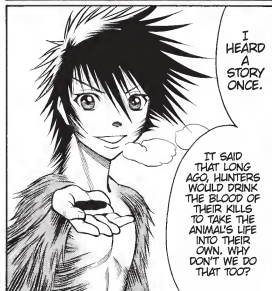
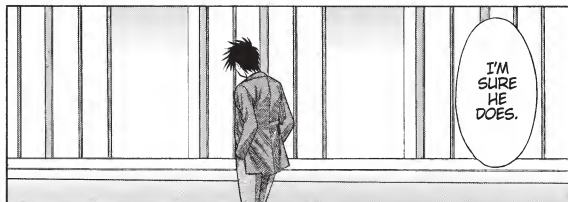
RIGHT
HERE!
RIGHT
NOW!
THAT
IS AN
ORDER
!!

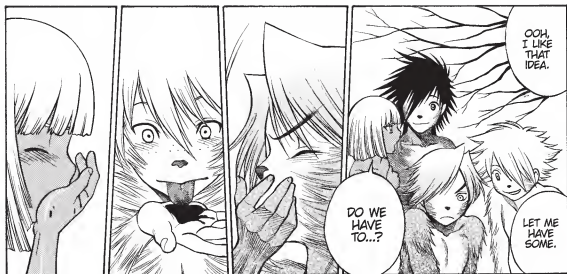


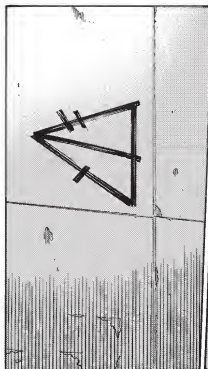
NO, I
DEMAND
THAT
YOU
TELL ME
EVERY-
THING!

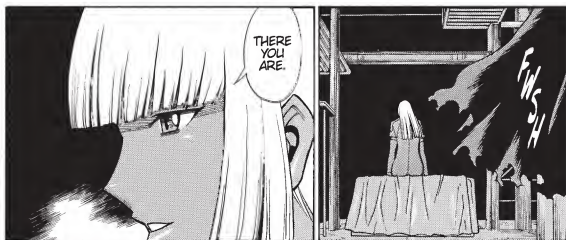
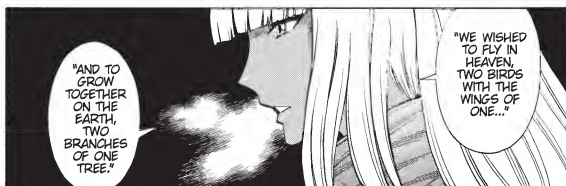
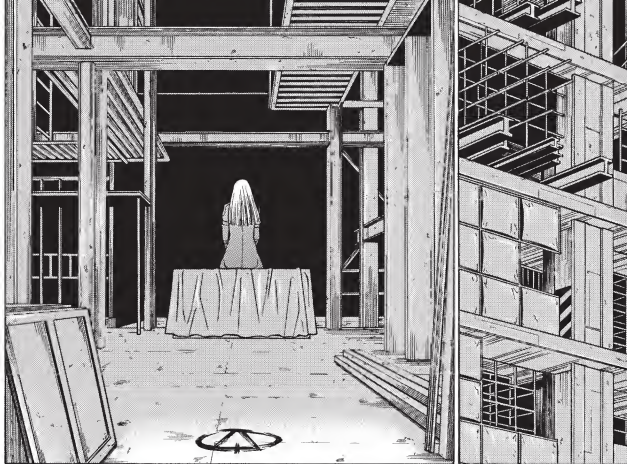








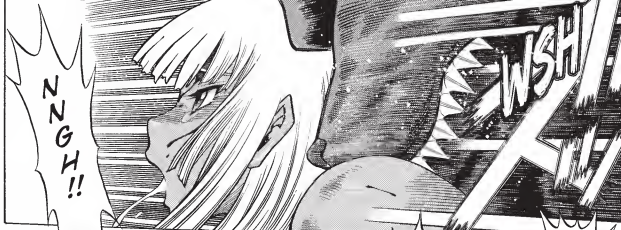












ZNGH!!

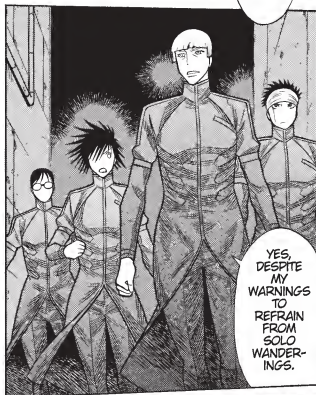


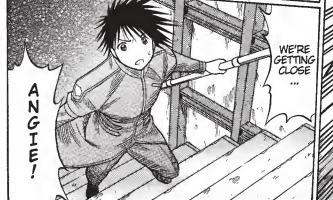
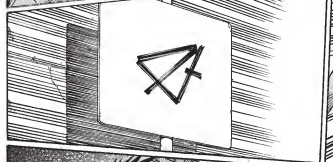
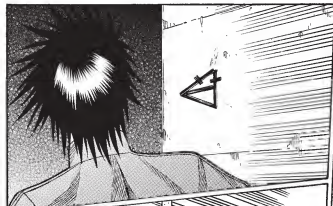
HAA
HRAAH!!

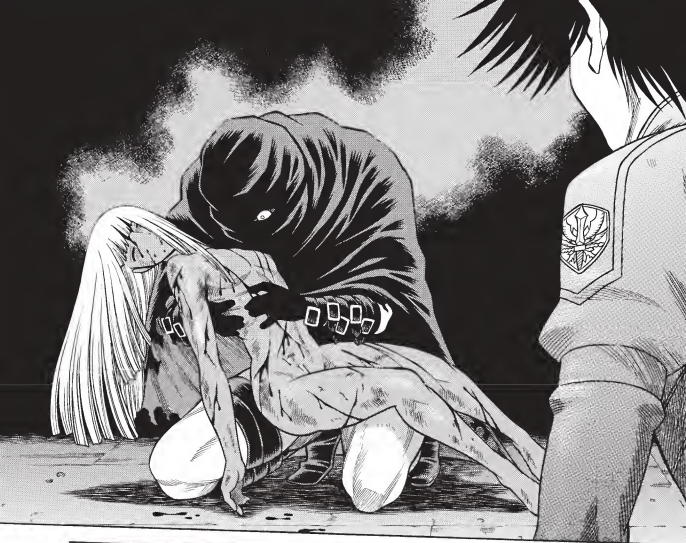


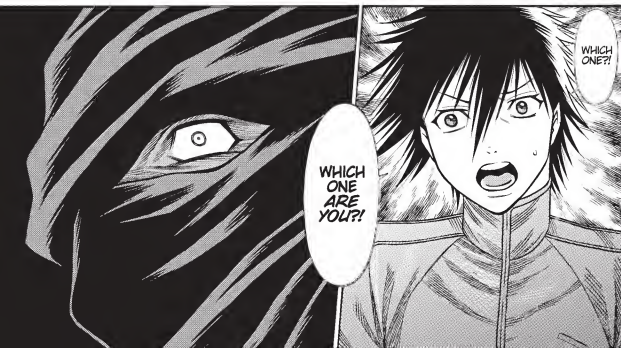
HAAAAAH

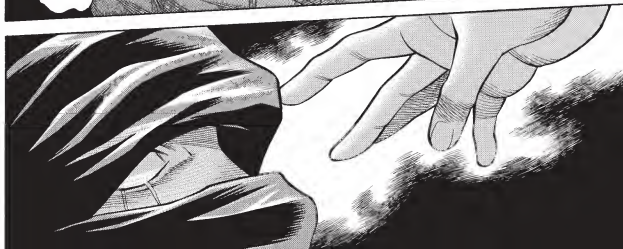
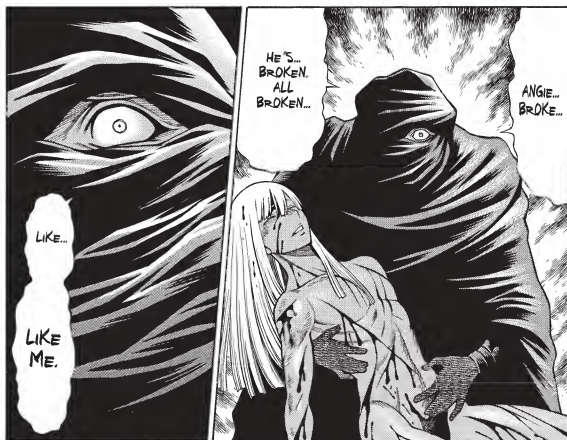


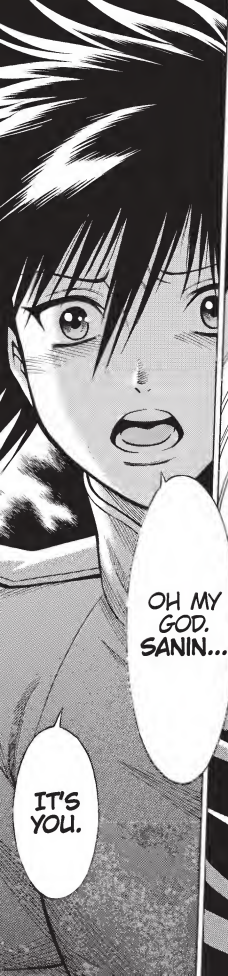








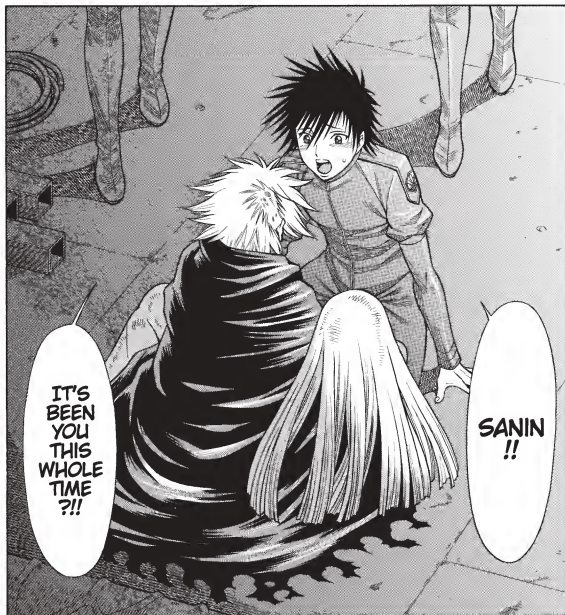
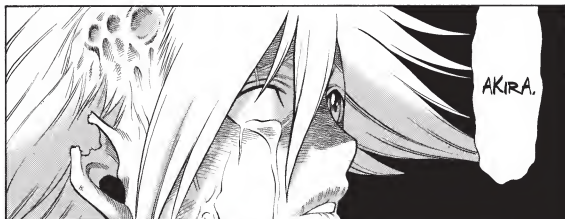




OH MY
GOD.
SANIN...

IT'S
YOU.







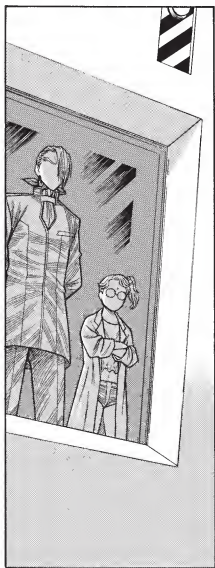
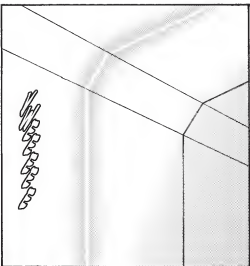
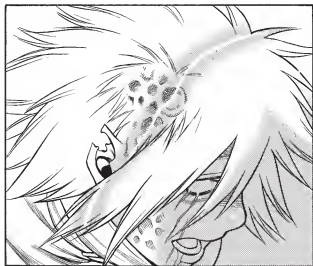


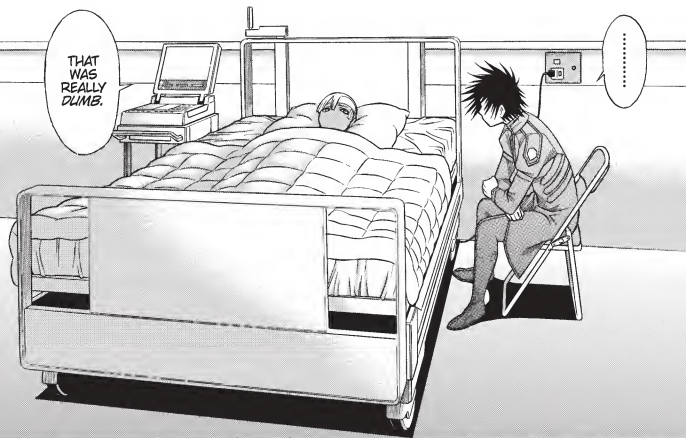
Chapter 42: Elegy for a Wolf

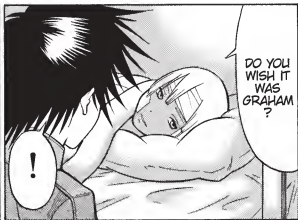


HAA!
THAT'S
WHAT YOU
THINK!
I'M FINALLY
GONNA WIN
TODAY!
I CAN
FEEL IT!!

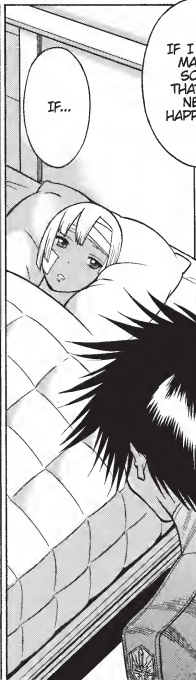
WE'LL
SEE IF
WE CAN'T
EXTEND
THAT
LOSING
STREAK
OF
YOURS!







IF I'D
NEVER
MET
HIME-SAN
AT ALL...



IF I COULD
MAKE IT
SO ALL
THAT SHIT
NEVER
HAPPENED...



IF HE
WAS
STILL
ALIVE...



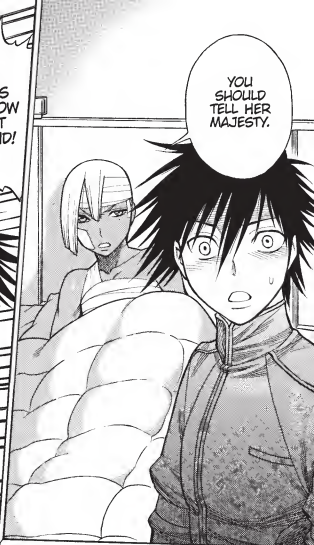


AND
WHO
YOU
DID IT
FOR!

SHE
NEEDS
TO KNOW
WHAT
YOU DID!

SHE
SHOULD
KNOW WHY
YOU GO
THROUGH
EVERY DAY
UP TO YOUR
ELBOWS IN
BLOOD!!

ANGIE!!



YOU
SHOULD
TELL HER
MAJESTY.

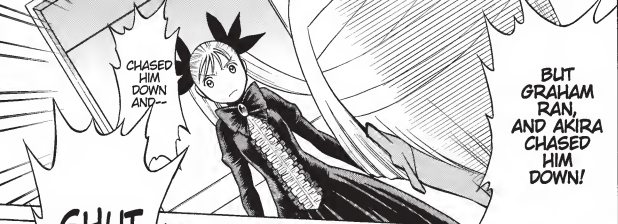


HE
CRUSHED
SANIN'S
SKULL AND
TOSSED HIM
OVER THE
EDGE OF
A CLIFF!

IF AKIRA
HADN'T
SHOWN
UP WHEN
HE DID--!

IT WAS
A BITTER-
COLD DAY
RIGHT
NEAR THE
END OF
OUR ORDEAL!

OUT OF
NOWHERE,
GRAHAM
SUDDENLY
SNAPPED!
HE
ATTACKED
SANIN
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
ME!!



CHASED
HIM
DOWN
AND—

BUT
GRAHAM
RAN,
AND AKIRA
CHASED
HIM
DOWN!

SHUT
UP!!



WAIT!



AKIRA
?!

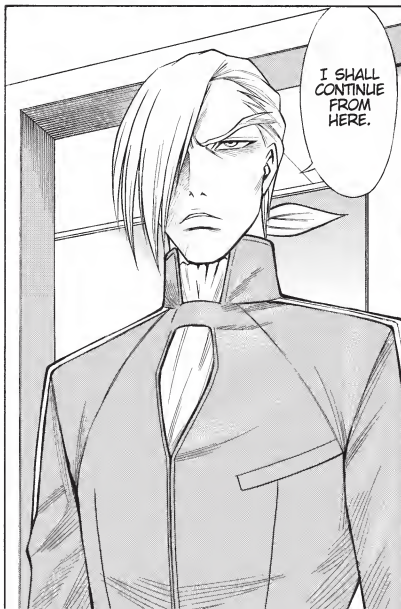
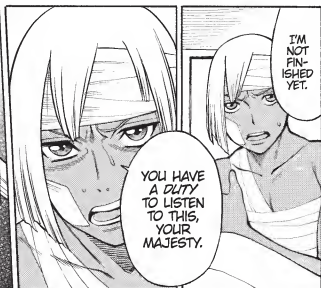


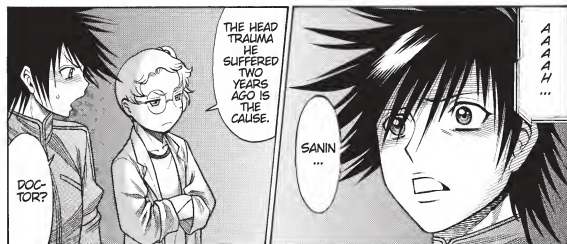
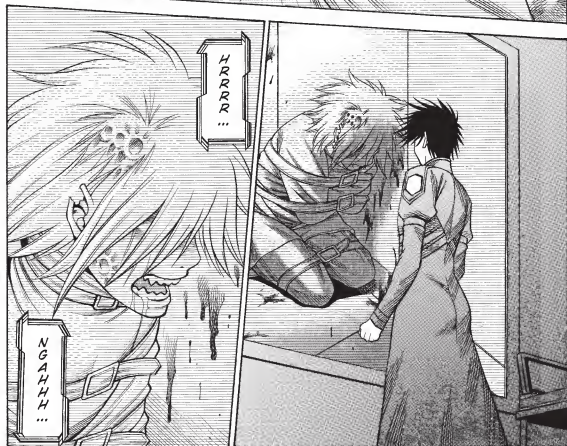
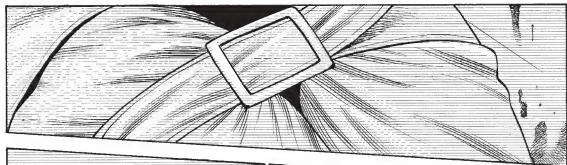
PLEASE.

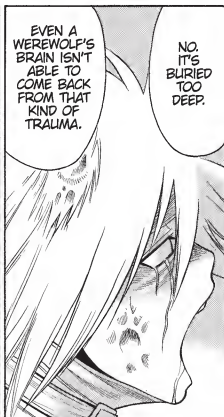
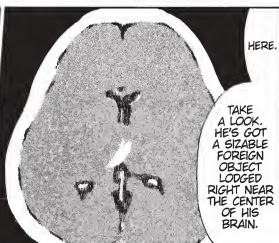


SHUT
UP AL-
READY!
DON'T
...

JUST
DON'T.









IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.

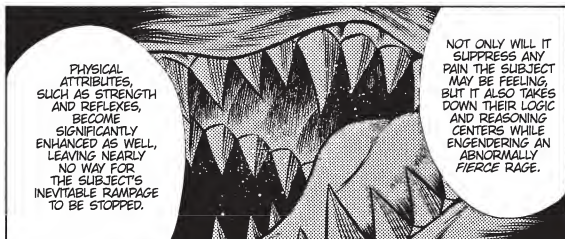
THEN HURRY UP AND GIVE HIM SOME!

THIS LITTLE DRUG HAS SOME CONSIDERABLE PSYCHOTROPIC SIDE EFFECTS.



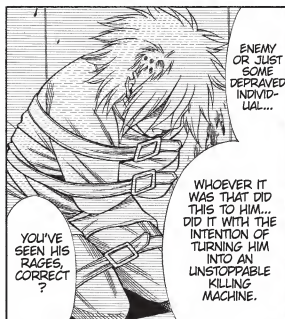
THEY'RE PAIN-KILLERS.

POWERFUL HEROIN-BASED ONES.



PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES, SUCH AS STRENGTH AND REFLEXES, BECOME SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED AS WELL, LEAVING NEARLY NO WAY FOR THE SUBJECT'S INEVITABLE RAMPAGE TO BE STOPPED.

NOT ONLY WILL IT SUPPRESS ANY PAIN THE SUBJECT MAY BE FEELING, BUT IT ALSO TAKES DOWN THEIR LOGIC AND REASONING CENTERS WHILE ENGENDERING AN ABNORMALLY FIERCE RAGE.



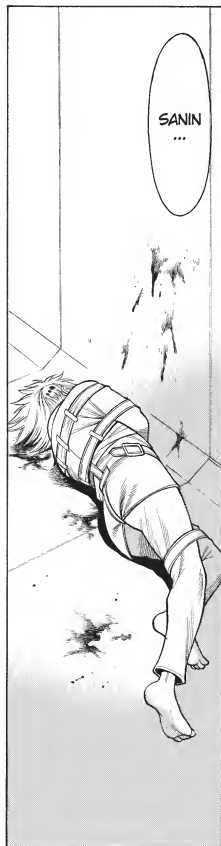
ENEMY OR JUST SOME DEPRAVED INDIVIDUAL...

YOU'VE SEEN HIS RAGES, CORRECT?

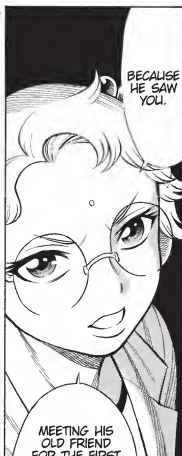
WHOEVER IT WAS THAT DID THIS TO HIM... DID IT WITH THE INTENTION OF TURNING HIM INTO AN UNSTOPPABLE KILLING MACHINE.



IN LAYMAN'S TERMS, THIS IS A BERSERKER SERUM.



SANIN
...



BECAUSE
HE SAW
YOU.



MEETING HIS
OLD FRIEND
FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN YEARS
HAS LIT A
FIRE UNDER
WHATEVER
LAST SHREDS
OF HUMANITY
HE HAS
LEFT.



OR AS
SANE AS
HE CAN
BE. HE
HIMSELF
IS REFUSING
TO LET US
ADMINISTER
THIS DRUG
TO HIM.

THE ONLY
WAY WE
ARE EVEN
ABLE TO
CONTAIN
HIM THIS
WAY IS
BECAUSE
HE'S
CURRENTLY
SANE...



HUH?
BUT
WHY?!

MY
THEORY
?



IN THE
PRESENT DAY,
THE EARTH
CLAN IS NEARLY
SYNONYMOUS
WITH THE
BEOWULF,
ALL OF
WHOM SERVE
AS LOYAL
GUARDIANS
AND WARRIORS
TO THE TEPEES
FAMILY.

IN THE
DAYS OF
THE VAMPIRE
CIVIL WARS,
HOWEVER, THERE
WERE MANY
CLANS, ALL OF
WHOM SERVED
THEIR OWN
SEPARATE
MASTERS.



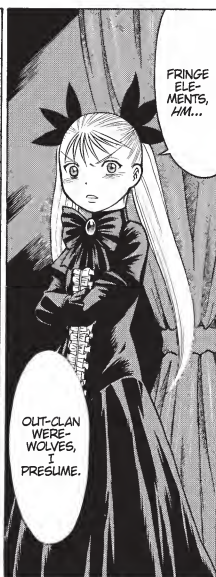
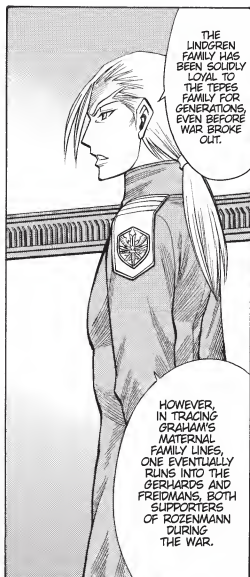
YOUR
MAJESTY
...

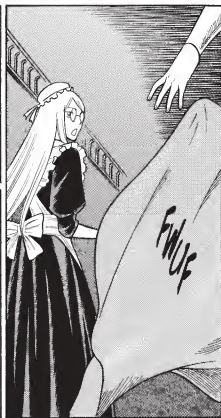
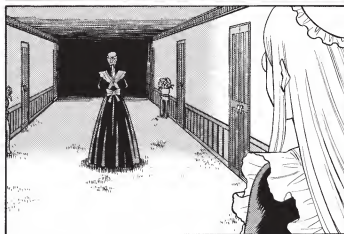
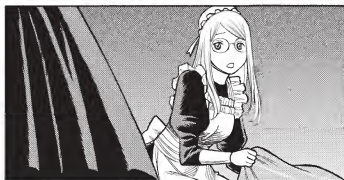
THE
INCIDENT IS
INEXTRICABLY
INTERTWINED
WITH THE
EARTH
CLAN'S
PAST.

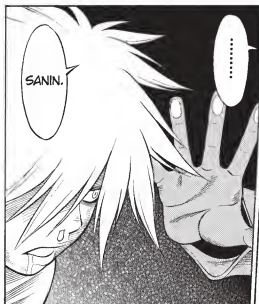


ALTHOUGH THE
CLANS SEEM TO BE
UNIFIED NOW, THERE
ARE STILL SOME WHO
CANNOT FORGET PAST
LOYALTIES OR WHO
DISAPPROVE OF THE
POWER WIELDED BY
THE EARTH CLAN
SENATE. INDEED,
SOME OF THESE
FRINGE ELEMENTS
ARE CONSIDERED A
TERRORIST RISK.

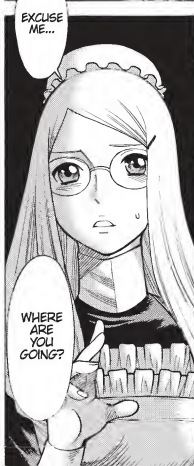
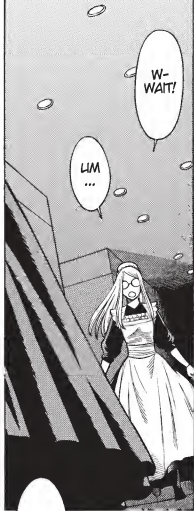














HUH?
HER
MAJESTY
HASN'T
GIVEN ANY
ORDERS
TO...

I
HAVE
TO
HURRY.



HER
MAJESTY
HAS
GIVEN
ME AN
ORDER.

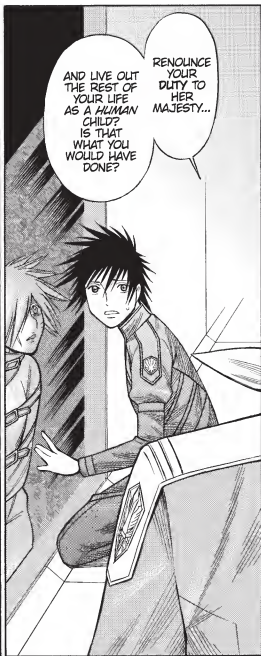


SOME-
BODY
HEL--!!!



NO!

THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I MEANT!
I...
I JUST--!



AND LIVE OUT
THE REST OF
YOUR LIFE
AS A *HUMAN*
CHILD?
IS THAT
WHAT YOU
WOULD HAVE
DONE?

RENOUNCE
YOUR
DUTY TO
HER
MAJESTY...



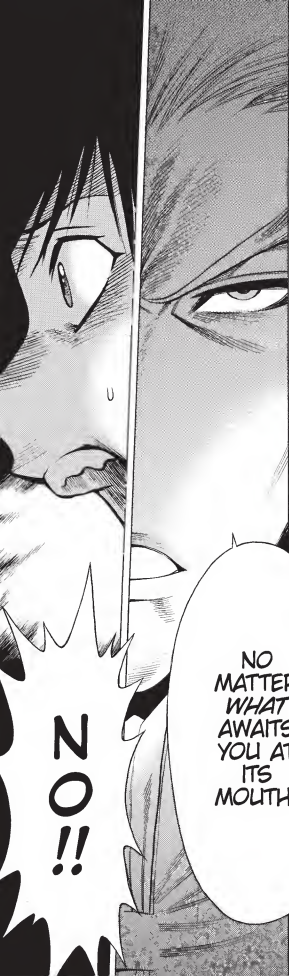
IF YOU
HAD
KNOWN
SOME-
THING
LIKE THIS
WOULD
HAPPEN...

YOU
WOULD
HAVE
DONE
WHAT,
EXACTLY
?



YOU HAVE
ALREADY
CHOSEN.

IT IS
TOO
LATE,
AKIRA.



NO!!

NO
MATTER
WHAT
AWAITS
YOU AT
ITS
MOUTH.



TIME IS
A RIVER
THAT DOES
NOT FLOW
BACK-
WARDS.

ONCE YOU
HAVE GIVEN
YOURSELF TO
ITS WATERS,
THERE IS
NOTHING FOR
YOU TO DO
BUT TO LET IT
TAKE YOU
WHERE IT
WILLS.



I...
I CAN'T
BE LIKE
YOU.

I COULD
NEVER
BE LIKE
WHAT
YOU
ARE...

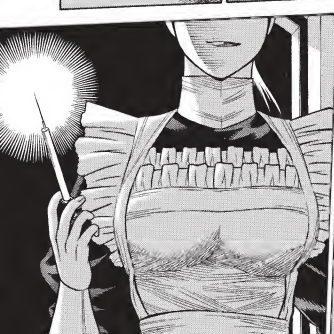
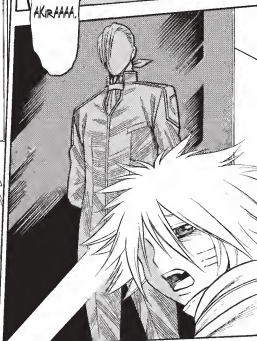
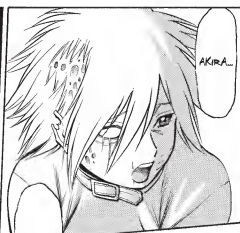
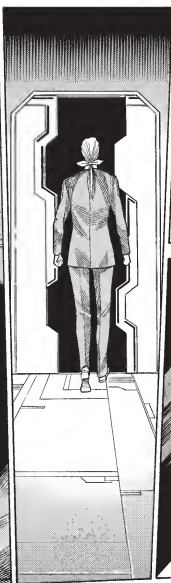


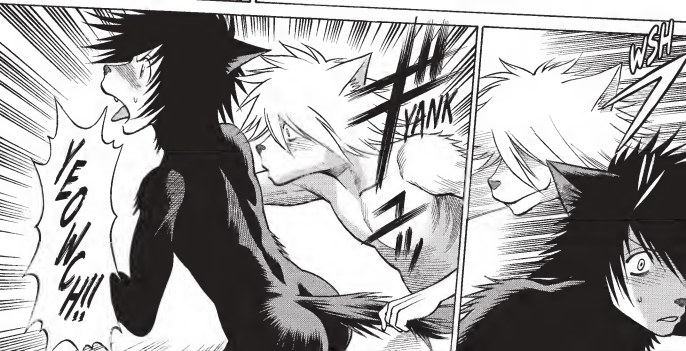
I'M
NOT
LIKE
YOU,
DAD!

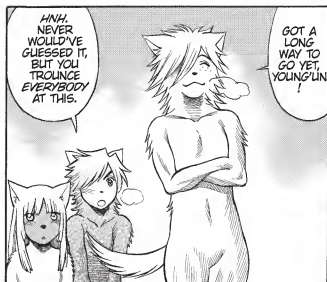
I'M
DIF-
FER-
ENT
!!



TURY

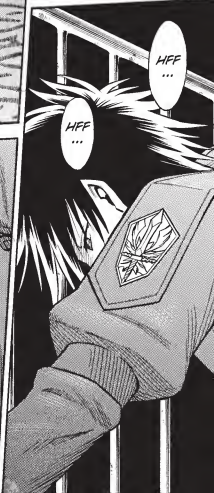
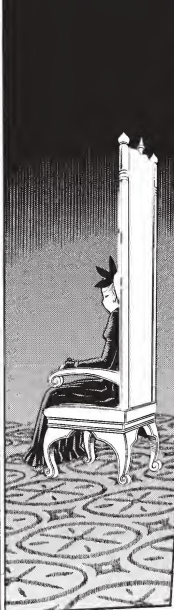


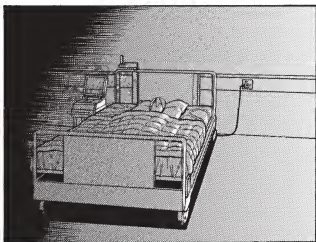


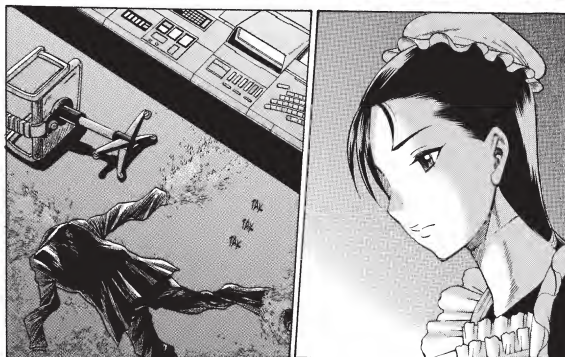
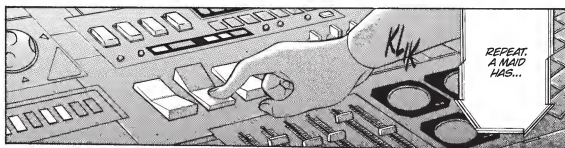


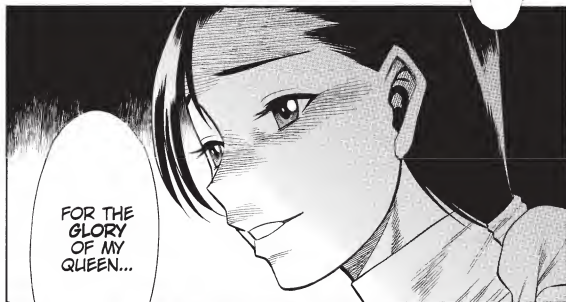
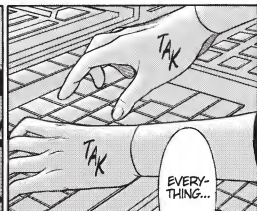
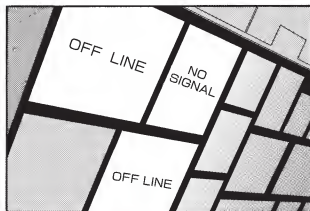


AKIRA.

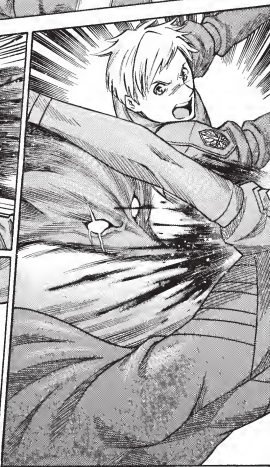
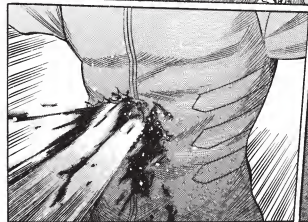
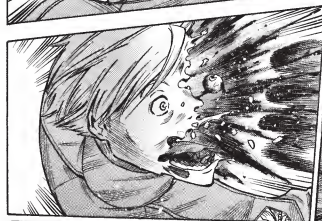
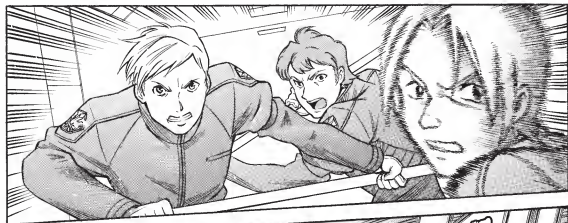






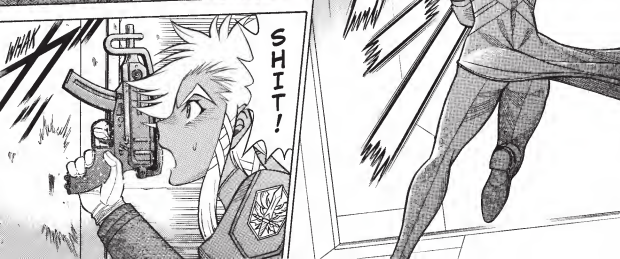
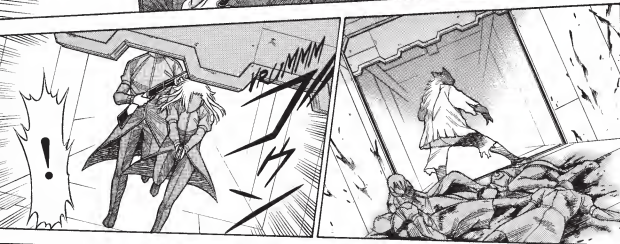
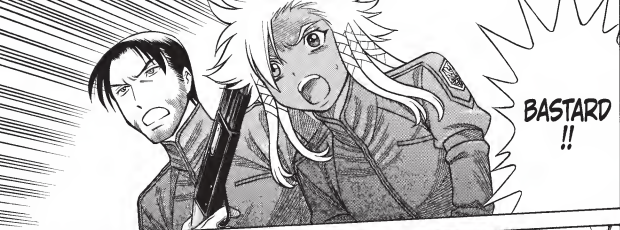


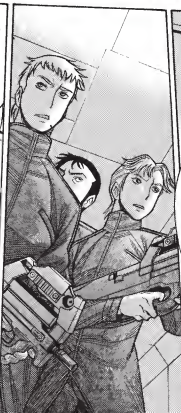


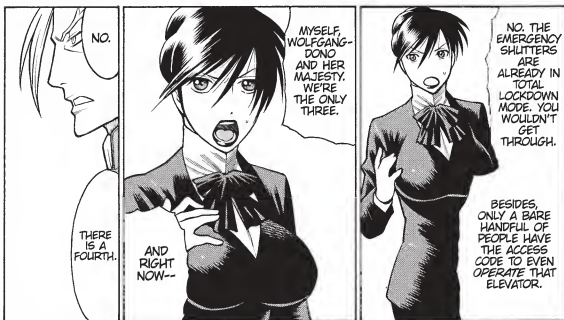




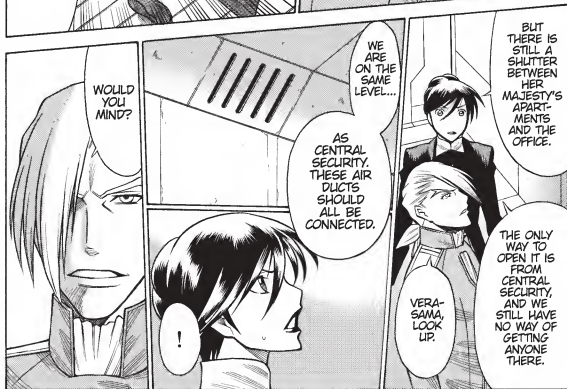
Chapter 43: Wolf, Never Cry













SO YES,
I WILL
TAKE BACK
CENTRAL
SECURITY...

NO
MATTER
WHO
AWAITS
ME
THERE!!



TAKING
POINT?
I AM THE
ONLY ONE
WHO COULD
PASS
THROUGH
THERE.



AND
COMMUNI-
CATIONS
ARE
ALSO
DOWN.

WHICH
MEANS I
SHOULD
EXPECT...



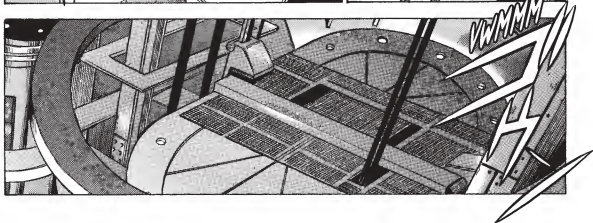
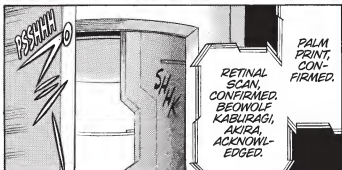
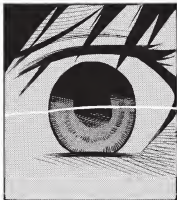
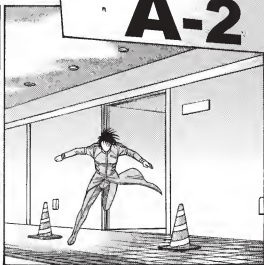
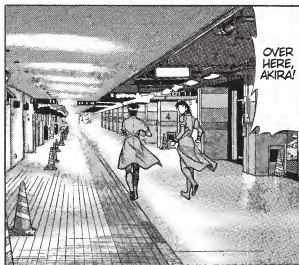
SO
THIS IS
LOCKED
AS
WELL.

RATTLE
RATTLE

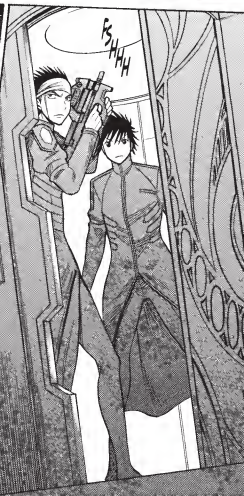
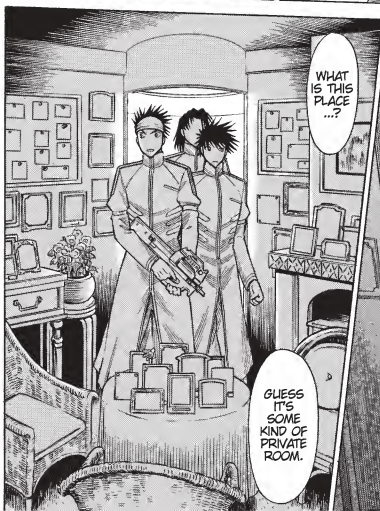


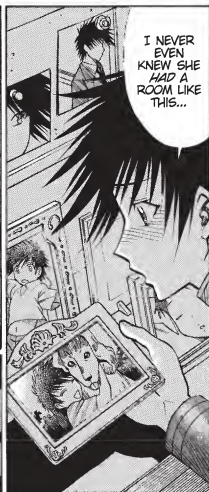
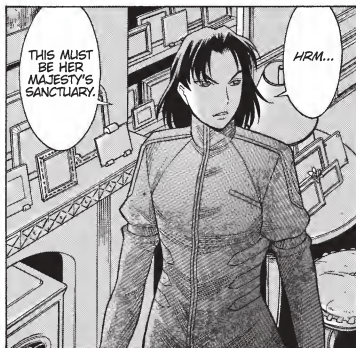
YOU.
OF
COURSE.

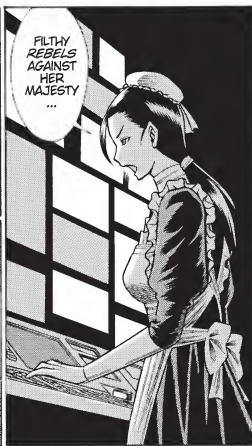
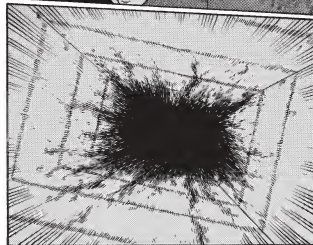
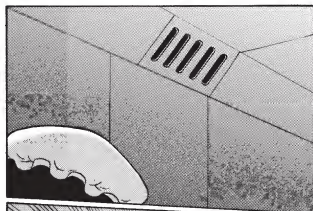
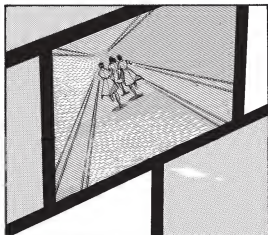
**PARKING
A-2**



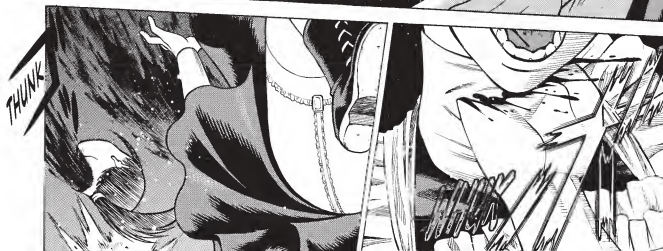
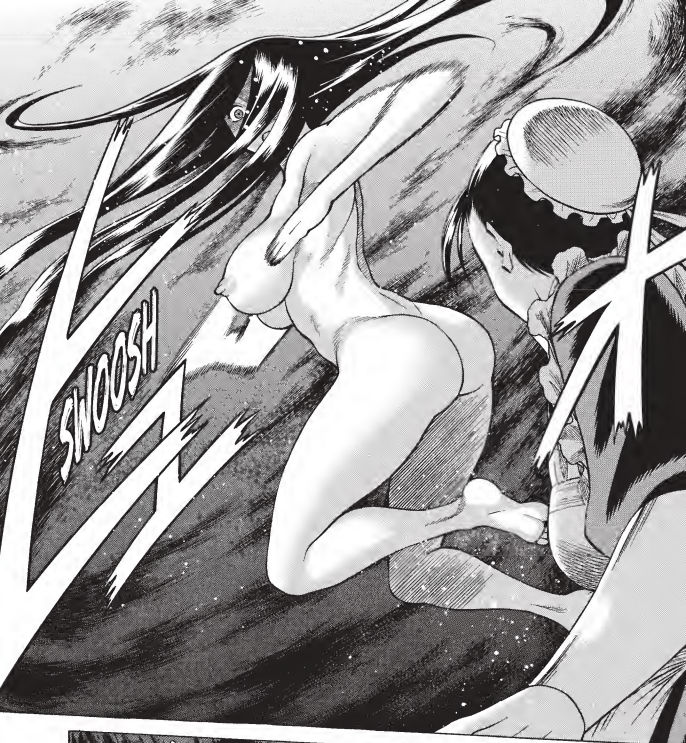


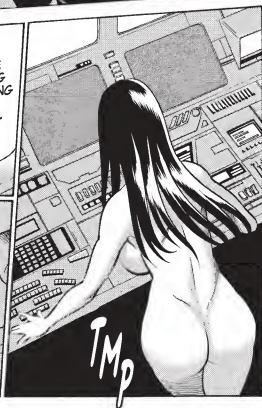
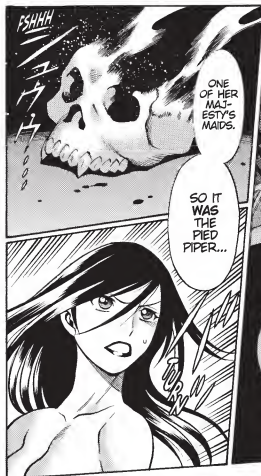


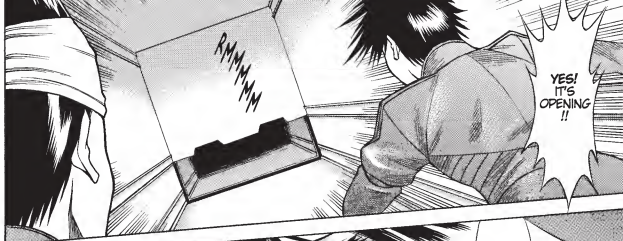




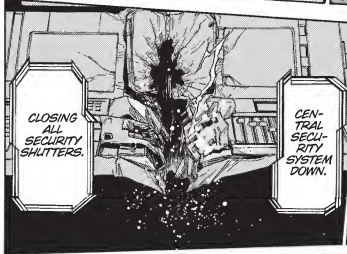


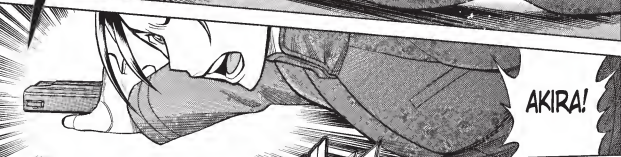
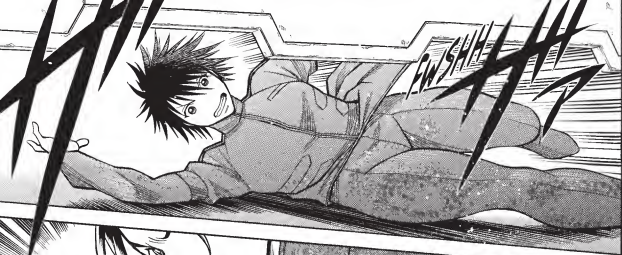


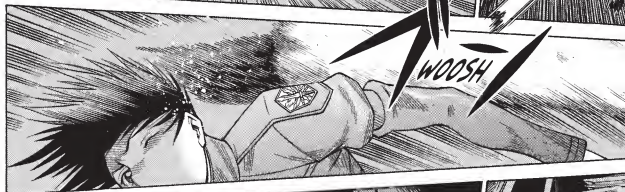
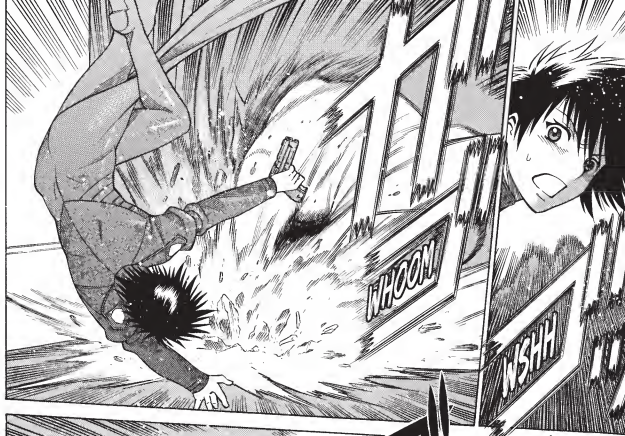














OH MY
GOD!
YOU'RE
HURT!!

SHH!



DON'T
SHOUT SO
LOUDLY.
I AM
ATTEMPTING
TO HIDE
HERE, YOU
KNOW.



I
HAVEN'T
GOT A
CHOICE!

THAT IS
EXACTLY
WHAT
THEY ARE
HOPING I
WILL DO!

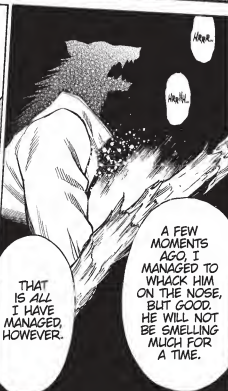
YOU DID
THAT
WITHOUT
TRANS-
FORM-
ING?

ARE YOU
NUTS?!



THEY ARE
WATCHING
VIA THE
SECURITY
CAMERAS.

THEY
WANT TO
KNOW
WHAT I
WILL DO
ONCE
CORNERED.



THAT
IS ALL
I HAVE
MANAGED,
HOWEVER.

A FEW
MOMENTS
AGO, I
MANAGED TO
WHACK HIM
ON THE NOSE,
BUT GOOD.
HE WILL NOT
BE SMELLING
MUCH FOR
A TIME.

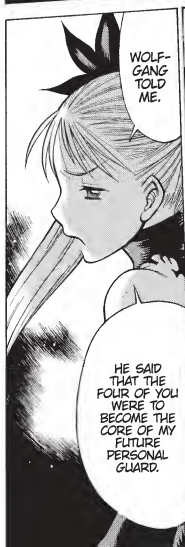


AND THE
ONLY WAY
WE'LL
SURVIVE
IS IF I--



HN.
NO
WAY
OUT.

WE'RE
COM-
PLETELY
TRAPPED
IN
HERE.



WOLF-
GANG
TOLD
ME.



WHAT
...?

HE SAID
THAT THE
FOUR OF YOU
WERE TO
BECOME THE
CORE OF MY
FUTURE
PERSONAL
GUARD.



NO!

I WILL
NOT MAKE
YOU KILL
A FRIEND
FOR A
SECOND
TIME!!

HE, WITH HIS
OUT-CLAN TIES,
WAS TO HIDE RIGHT
BY MY SIDE UNTIL
THE TIME CAME TO
ACT ON WHATEVER
PLAN THEY HAD
HATCHED.

BUT
GRAHAM
WAS A
SLEEPER
AGENT.

EVERY-
THING
YOU
DID...

YOU HAD NO CHOICE.
TO PROTECT ME
FROM FUTURE HARM,
YOU HAD TO KILL
ONE WHOM YOU
CALLED A FRIEND.

THAT IS
WHY YOU
KEPT
SILENT,
IS IT
NOT...?

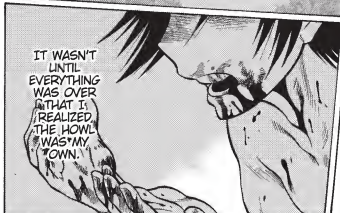
YOU DID
FOR MY
SAKE.

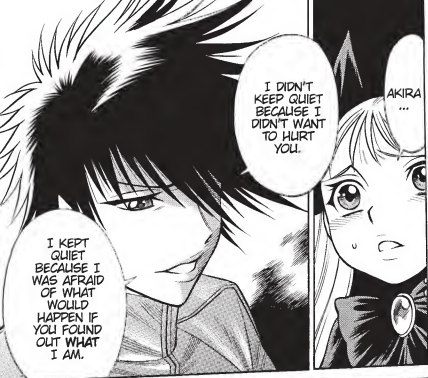
IF YOU
NEVER
HAD THE
MISFOR-
TUNE
TO MEET
ME...

THEN
MAYBE...
MAYBE
YOU...!

I
STOLE
EVERY-
THING
FROM
YOU.

IT
WAS,
WASN'T
IT?

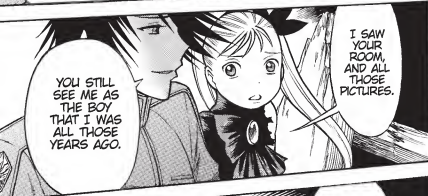




I KEPT
QUIET
BECAUSE I
WAS AFRAID
OF WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN IF
YOU FOUND
OUT WHAT
I AM.

I DIDN'T
KEEP QUIET
BECAUSE I
DIDN'T WANT
TO HURT
YOU.

AKIRA
...



YOU STILL
SEE ME AS
THE BOY
THAT I WAS
ALL THOSE
YEARS AGO.

I SAW
YOUR
ROOM,
AND ALL
THOSE
PICTURES.



I'M
SORRY,
HIME-SAN...
BUT I'M
NOT YOUR
AKIRA
ANYMORE.

BUT I'M
NOT HIM
ANYMORE.
I HAVEN'T
BEEN HIM
FOR TWO
YEARS.

YOU WOULD'VE
THOUGHT I'D
KNOWN THIS LONG
BEFOREHAND,
BUT IT WASN'T
UNTIL THAT
MOMENT THAT
I KNEW--TRULY
KNEW RIGHT
DOWN TO THE
BOTTOM OF MY
SOUL--WHAT I
REALLY WAS...



A
MONSTER.



THAT
VOW,
I'LL
NEVER
BREAK.

I
SWORE
I'D
PROTECT
YOU.



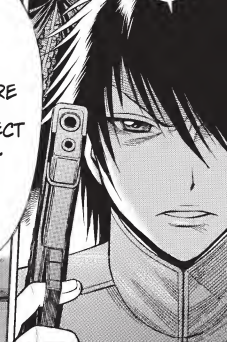
AKIRA,
WAIT!

DON'T
GO!!

HOW-
EVER...



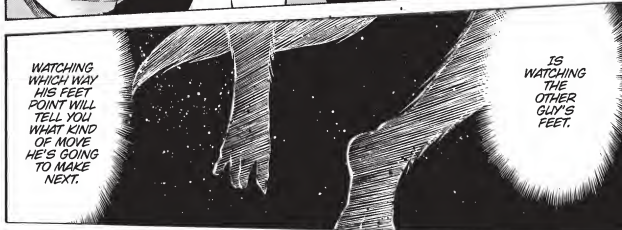
THERE
IS ONE
THING
THAT
HASN'T
CHANGED.





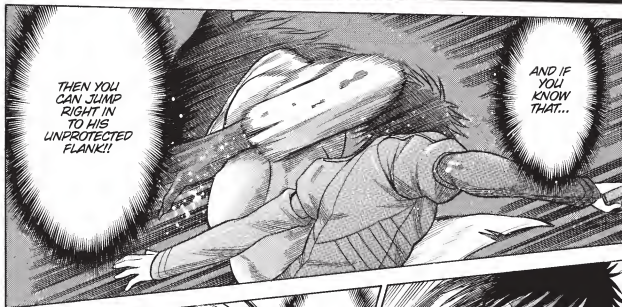


SEE,
THE
SECRET TO
"CATCH
THE TAIL"...



WATCHING
WHICH WAY
HIS FEET
POINT WILL
TELL YOU
WHAT KIND
OF MOVE
HE'S GOING
TO MAKE
NEXT.

IS
WATCHING
THE
OTHER
GUY'S
FEET.



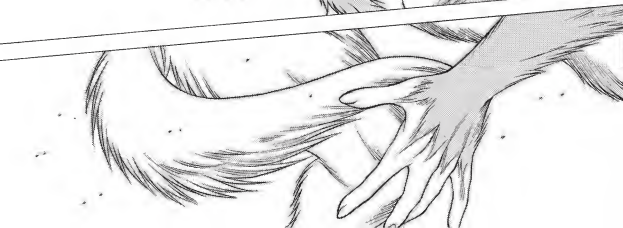
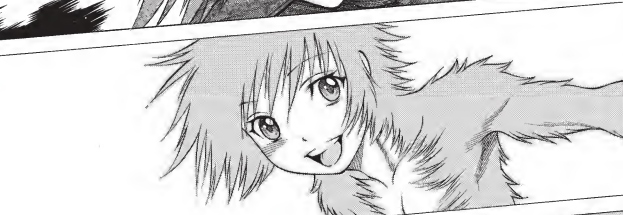
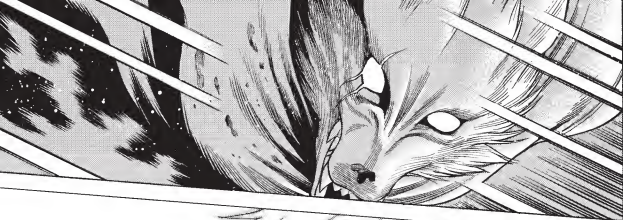
THEN YOU
CAN JUMP
RIGHT IN
TO HIS
UNPROTECTED
FLANK!!

AND IF
YOU
KNOW
THAT...



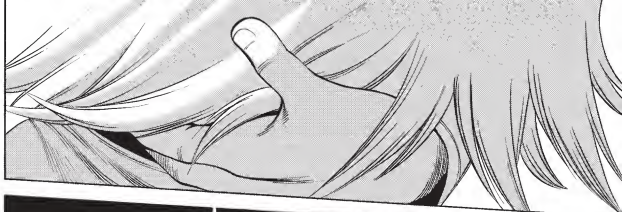
QUICKER
THAN
HE'LL
EVER
EXPECT
!!

YOU'LL
GET
RIGHT
UP INTO
HIS
SIDE...

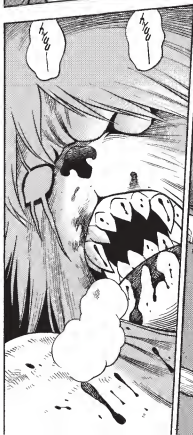


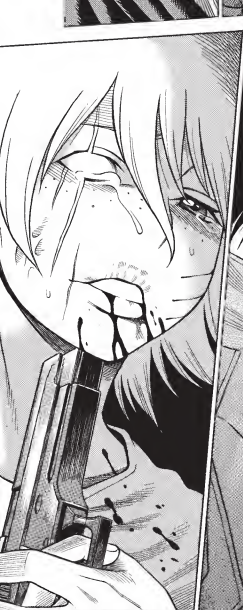


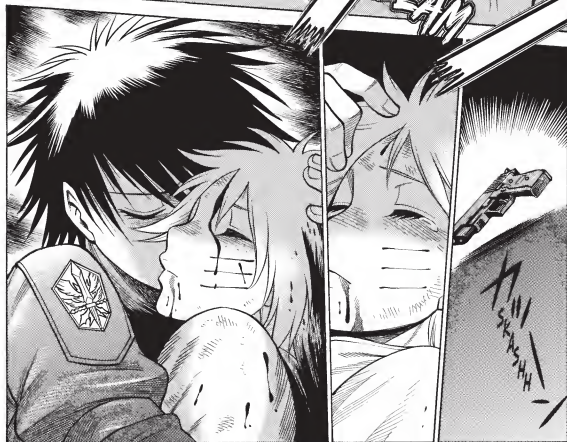




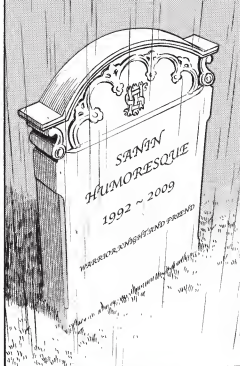
LOOKS
LIKE I
FINALLY
MANAGED
TO BEAT
YOU.











I
CANNOT
SAY I
DO NOT
UNDER-
STAND
HOW HE
FELT.

IF
I AM
TO
DIE...



I WOULD
LIKE IT
TO BE BY
YOUR
HAND.







I SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT. I'M SORRY, AKIRA.

I'M SORRY ...



PLEASE
STOP
CRYING...



OH,
SHUT UP,
SANIN.

SHEESH,
THIS
ROCK IS
HARD!

DAMMIT,
CHIPPED
A CLAW.

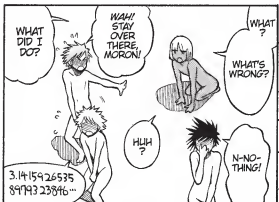
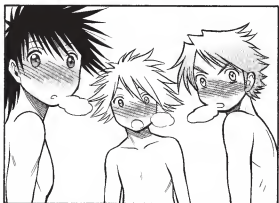
OWW!

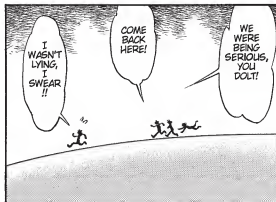
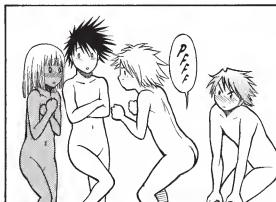
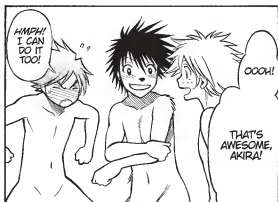


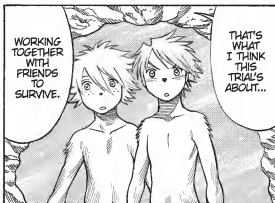
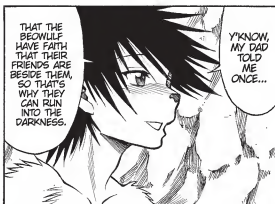
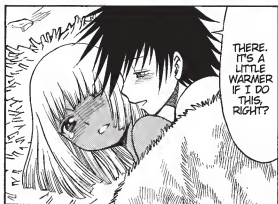
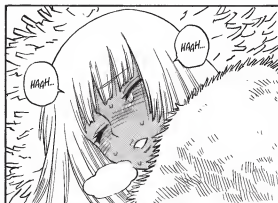
TO BE CONTINUED

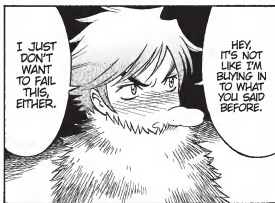


DANCES with WOLVES









Dance in the Vampire Bund

NEXT VOLUME PREVIEW

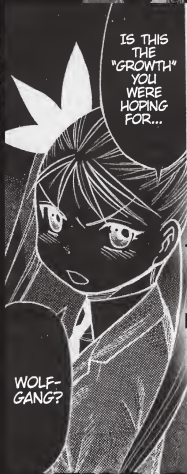
THE PAST ONCE AGAIN REARS
ITS UGLY HEAD...
AND A NEW VISITOR APPEARS.



IF THAT'S
THE CASE,
THEN
THIS GUY
WANTS TO
BE ME.



WE HAVE
COME TO
THE BUND,
SEEKING
POLITICAL
ASYLUM!



IS THIS
THE
"GROWTH"
YOU
WERE
HOPING
FOR...

THAT'S
THE
FEELING
I'M
GETTING.

CONSPIRACY
CONTINUES
TO ASSAIL THE
WOLF AND
HIS QUEEN.
HOPE ARRIVES,
BUT SO DOES
THE OMEN OF
A DEADLY
PLAGUE!

WOLF-
GANG?

VOLUME 8 COMING SOON!



Dance in the Vampire Bund

Volume 7

story & art by Nozomu Tamaki

STAFF CREDITS

translation Adrienne Beck
adaptation Janet Houck
retouch & lettering Roland Amago
cover design Nicky Lim
layout Bambi Eloriaga-Amago
copy editor Shanti Whitesides
editor Adam Arnold

publisher Seven Seas Entertainment

DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND VOL. 7

© 2009 Nozomu Tamaki

First published in Japan in 2009 by MEDIA FACTORY, Inc.

English translation rights reserved by Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.

Under the license from MEDIA FACTORY, Inc., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders.

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

Visit us online at www.gomanga.com



ISBN: 978-1-934876-80-0

Printed in the USA

Second Printing: August 2010

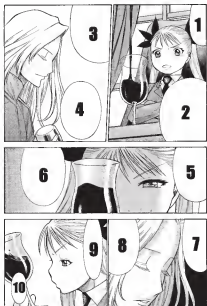
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3



THE END

YOU'RE READING THE WRONG WAY

This is the last page of
Dance in the Vampire Bund
Volume 7



This book reads from right to left, Japanese style. To read from the beginning, flip the book over to the other side, start with the top right panel, and take it from there.

If this is your first time reading manga, just follow the diagram. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get used to it! Have fun!

